

Romania's Danube Delta and Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

6 – 15 May 2017



White-tailed Eagle



Red-footed Falcon



Brown Bear



Dalmatian Pelican

Report and images by Dave Smallshire



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Summary

This was a very varied trip, not just between the mountain forests of the Carpathians, the wetlands of the Danube Delta and the dry steppes of the Black Sea coast, but also in the range of habitats that we visited. Although some days were sunny and warm, we had a few showers (mainly while in transit) and often quite strong winds, keeping temperatures on the cool side. An evening visit to a bear-watching hide yielded at least four Brown Bears, with one or another usually in view for the two hours that we watched. Next, we spent four days aboard a floating hotel, which took us into the very heart of the Danube Delta. Waterbirds were everywhere, while White-tailed Eagles, Hobbies and Red-footed Falcons gave us some stunning views. Kingfishers, terns and a variety of waders added to the spectacle. Finally, we spent two days exploring areas outside the Delta, including rare steppe grasslands. A very respectable total of 184 species of birds was encountered, including unusual species such as Saker Falcon, Pallas's Gull, Pied Wheatear and Paddyfield Warbler, not to mention a nice range of other vertebrates, invertebrates and colourful mountain flowers.

Day 1

Saturday 6th May

London Heathrow - Bucharest - Zarnesti

Our 11am flight from Heathrow took off half an hour late, but thankfully managed to arrive 15 minutes early at Bucharest. Here we met up with our guide Florin, and Rochelle and Steve who had arrived the day before, and made our way to the bus, where we were introduced to our driver, Sorin. Our departure from the airport building was delayed briefly while police apprehended wallet thieves at the exit doors, but soon we were heading north towards the Carpathian Mountains.

The three-hour journey was broken by a comfort break, when we listened to Field Crickets chirping in their burrows. A few Marsh Harriers and White Storks enlivened the journey, while only Bob managed to see a Black Stork overhead. As we gained altitude, the sunshine turned to showers and the temperature started to fall.

At Zarnesti, on the fringe of the Piatra Craiului National Park, we were greeted by our friendly hosts at the Elena guest house with a welcoming plum brandy. A delicious 4-course dinner soon followed, after which Florin introduced the plan for tomorrow's excursions to the nearby mountains. Then there was an opportunity to imbibe more plum brandies or other drinks of preference, and to get to know each other better.

Day 2

Sunday 7th May

Zarnesti Gorge & Bran Castle

A few ventured out in the cool but sunny conditions before breakfast, noting Black Redstart and Fieldfare in the town. The sunshine held for our morning walk up the beautiful Zarnesti Gorge. On the approach we glimpsed Dippers in the adjacent stream. Soon into our walk, Florin found a Chamois on the skyline, which we were able to admire through telescopes. Birdsong in the woods included Wood Warbler and Firecrest, one of the latter coming down to check us out. Then Florin spotted a large Fire Salamander clambering up the stream bank (later declared honorary 'Bird of the Day' by some!). Five Honey Buzzards, Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Hobby, Peregrine, Kestrel, Alpine Swifts and Ravens graced the skies overhead, but search as we might, we couldn't find

the Wallcreeper seen the previous week. While looking for the latter we were treated to Grey Wagtails disputing a territorial boundary. Despite a fresh breeze coming down the Gorge, it was warm enough for butterflies such as Orange Tip to complement a range of very attractive spring flowers, some of which we were able to put names to thanks to a combination of our corporate knowledge and useful interpretation boards along the trail. Colourful plants included Yellow Anemone, Wolfsbane, Transylvanian Hepatica, Hungarian Snowbell and Oxlip, while a parasitic plant initially thought to be a broomrape was in fact Toothwort. Large iridescent bronze and green ground beetles added to the interest at ground level.

We ate our packed lunches en route to Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle), stopping at a rather windy viewpoint to admire the mountain views. At Bran, the group variously opted to walk in the town or the castle grounds, or to visit the Castle itself which is perched dramatically on top of a rocky crag. We were surprised to find Nuthatches bringing food to a nest low down in a tree at the noisy corner of a park; the young looked nearly ready to fledge, but mud around the edges of the hole meant that only one at a time could poke out its head. Several pairs of Fieldfare were nesting in the grounds, collecting worms to provision their young, while a pair of Spotted Flycatchers were at a much earlier stage of the breeding cycle. When rain threatened, we sought shelter (and coffee or beer) in a café, though later the evening turned sunny as we returned to Zarnesti for dinner.

Day 3

Monday 8th May

Stramba Valley & Barsa Fierului

Today was mainly cloudy with an occasional light shower in the morning. As we approached the Stramba Valley, a Lesser Spotted Eagle in a roadside tree indirectly led to us spending a productive time birding from the roadside (the bus backed into a car that had stopped so close behind us that Sorin couldn't see it!). The eagle moved to another tree, giving excellent telescope views, while Grey-headed and Black Woodpeckers called in the distance, but only Florin glimpsed the latter. A pair of Red-backed Shrikes were found, but soon disturbed by horses being driven to new pasture. Cuckoos and Fieldfares showed briefly before we drove a short distance to walk along the valley between flower rich meadows and woodland. Yellowhammers and Tree Pipits sang from isolated trees. Another Black Woodpecker called, then Golden Orioles sang (one was seen) and a Woodlark circled in song-flight. Hawfinches also flew overhead, but we had much longer views of two pairs of Lesser Spotted Eagles, one of the birds giving its switchback display. A few Whinchats perched on tall stems, while further on a Wryneck was seen by some of the group, though we all saw Marsh Tits at their nest hole in a willow trunk. In the meadows we found Green-winged Orchid, Map Butterfly and a Mother Shipton moth, the latter showing a witch-like profile on its wings. Florin teased one of the chirping Field Crickets out of its burrow and, before we turned back to return to Zarnesti for lunch, he fished out one of the Yellow-bellied Toads in a trackside ditch.

We returned to the Elena for a hot lunch and at 4pm set off towards Barsa Fierului for an evening's bear watching. On the way, we tried to find Nutcracker, but had to be satisfied with six Crossbills. After meeting up with our bear-watching guide, we drove up through forest and stopped a short distance from one of several purpose-built hides. We carefully and quietly negotiated a steep path to the hide where the first to enter found our first Brown Bear already at the feeding station a couple of hundred metres downhill. We had to wait a while for the next bear to appear and over the next hour and a half or so had a sequence of bears visiting – at least four we thought, but only ever one in view at once. Each bear would divide its time between scoffing what we were told were biscuits (they seemed to ignore the red peppers and other vegetable matter!) and looking around,

presumably trying to avoid conflict with other bears. Eventually, we tucked in to our picnic and then – sated with bears and food – decided to leave the bears to their biscuit picnic. As we returned to the main track, it was evident from enormous footprints that one of the bears had walked past us, hidden from view, towards our vehicles. Sorin had been playing games on his phone in the bus and had seen nothing; perhaps it was just as well!

Day 4

Tuesday 9th May

Zarnesti to Tulcea

Today we travelled south towards Bucharest and then east to our destination for the next three days: the Danube Delta. As it was cloudy with rain on and off and a cool northerly wind, it was a good day to travel! We stopped first for a comfort break at a service station, where a Crested Lark walked outrageously around the forecourt between the cars and customers, and later at Amaru Lake, which proved to be very bird-rich. We saw good numbers of wetland species that we were going to be seeing much more of in the coming days: Glossy Ibis, Night, Purple and Squacco Herons, Great and Little Egrets, Marsh Harrier, Whiskered Tern and Great Reed Warbler. Two Little Bitterns were seen in flight, while two males ‘barked’ from the reedbed. A distant harrier proved to be a female Pallid Harrier.

Travelling on, we encountered several flocks of White Storks in fields, presumably migrants grounded by the headwind, and a pair of Montagu’s Harriers. After crossing the Danube, a mere 500 metres wide at this point, we stopped at Hasarlac, where almost immediately a Honey Buzzard flew low overhead giving excellent views and a Little Bittern gave a display flight. The lake also added Ferruginous Duck and Caspian Gull to our list. Later, as we descended hairpin bends, we passed a large rookery with at least four Red-footed Falcons. Eventually we reached our base for the next four nights: a very well-appointed floating hotel (flotel), complete with its attendant tug and motor boat. After settling in to our cabins, we assembled for the first splendid meal, complete with complimentary wine and what proved to be customary origami napkin creations of animals (breakfast eggs were also given animal faces!). Later, with the aid of a wall map of the Delta, Florin detailed the routes we would take in the coming days and talked about some of the wildlife we should look out for.

Day 5

Wednesday 10th May

NW sector of Danube Delta

Our first journey into the Delta was by motor boat, first travelling north-eastwards into a biting wind along the large Sulina Branch channel created by Ceausescu. Turning left into the smaller ‘Mile 36’ channel, we immediately noticed birdsong coming from the fringing woodland. Prominent were the loud blasts of Thrush Nightingale, but rich Garden Warbler, simple Collared Flycatcher and rambling Icterine Warbler songs also came through. Kingfishers were also frequent, apparently putting the abundant sandy banks to good use for nesting. After a while we manoeuvred the boat into the wooded edge and cut the engine: a superb Collared Flycatcher sang and danced around low down in the trees before us. As we continued, frequent Pygmy Cormorants flew by or fished in the channel or numerous small areas of open water that we passed. Several White-tailed Eagles, often mobbed by Hooded Crows, included one that remained perched as we cruised slowly underneath it: we could really appreciate how massive its bill was! Soon after seeing our first Dalmatian Pelican, we encountered fishing flocks of White Pelicans and Great Cormorants; pelicans also circled above in large squadrons. Exquisite Squacco Herons proved to be one of the most frequently encountered herons, while Dave suggested that the so-

called Night Herons should be renamed 'Day Herons', as we saw them so often! Open areas produced Hoopoe and Roller, while sandbanks held small colonies of Sand Martins. Turning southwards and through Lake Furtuna, we re-joined the flotel, which had been towed along the Sulina Branch, for lunch near Maliuc.

Throughout the morning we had seen many Common and Whiskered Terns, but continuing eastwards on the flotel along the Sulina Branch after lunch, we passed flock after flock of marsh terns, including beautiful White-winged Terns, and Little Gulls. At Crisan we boarded the motor boat and checked south-eastwards on the Crisan Channel hoping for waders, but to little avail, so we retraced our journey to the Sulina Branch and travelled into the north-eastern sector of the Delta via an old course of the Danube (Dunarea Veche), to re-join the flotel. The boatman spotted a Black Woodpecker, so we stopped nearby and were treated to a pair of these spectacular birds, the female hammering away vigorously at rotting tree stumps. Later, Andy spotted a Grey-headed Woodpecker on a dead branch, which were the favoured perches of frequent Hobbies; we saw at least 14 of the latter, some giving exceptionally close views. At one point, we happened upon a pair of Dalmatian Pelicans, which also stayed to give us great views. We moored overnight alongside a reedbed in a very quiet area. Venturing on deck at 11pm when the wind had subsided somewhat, Dave and Florin heard a Little Crake calling from the reeds nearby.

Day 6

Thursday 11th May

Letea and NE sector of Danube Delta

Before breakfast, in welcome sunshine, the telescope was trained on a singing Savi's Warbler; we heard a number of these in the Delta but this was the only one seen. The clear weather persisted through the day and though the wind was quite strong, it came from a southerly direction and the temperature rose to around 20°C. Our morning excursion on the motor boat was north-eastwards to the remote village of Letea. On the way, we stopped beside a sedge bed to look for Little Crake. There was no response, but the only Bluethroat of the trip appeared briefly in taller reeds, unfortunately disappearing before most could get onto it.

Alighting at Letea, we walked along one of the natural alluvial ridges to scan for waders, but again we were disappointed and only Wood Sandpipers were there. A few Fire-bellied Toads sang their tuneful 'poop' songs in one marshy pool, where Dave caught a Hairy Hawker dragonfly for all to admire. Then the attention turned to Red-footed Falcons and Syrian Woodpeckers; pairs of both gave us excellent views! We saw a few Bee-eaters, Northern Wheatears and a Black Redstart in the sleepy village, before re-boarding the boat and returning to the flotel for lunch.

After lunch, an adult Pallas's Gull flew by, disappearing all too quickly. Later in the afternoon we took the motor boat westwards along another old branch of the Danube and through Lake Trei Lezere ('Three Springs'), where the only Black-necked Grebes of the trip were spotted, finally stopping at a nearly-completed Penduline Tit nest. The male was calling (a noise we experienced frequently today!) and soon came into view: first it preened and then made several visits to the nest, bringing downy material to work into the entrance hole. Bird of the Day for some! Continuing along small channels and lakes, we met the flotel at another quiet spot for the night.

Day 7

Friday 12th May

Return to Tulcea via C & NW sectors of Danube Delta

This morning broke fine and sunny, although the wind was still keen, and a few Dalmatian Pelicans, Caspian Gulls and Whiskered Terns were seen from the deck. After breakfast, during which we all wished Rosemary a happy birthday, we boarded the motor boat for a further exploration of the smaller channels and lakes north of the Sulina Branch. The morning's highlights, amongst many more views of the characteristic waterbirds of the Delta, were our best views of Red-necked Grebes, a second(?) adult Pallas's Gull, again briefly, and many sightings of Red-footed Falcons and Hobbies. After crossing one lake, we paused at the edge to go 'frog fishing', which entailed Florin and the boatman using a rod and line 'baited' with a plastic orange cap: this was bobbed up and down above several Marsh Frogs, who leapt out of the water in attempts to grab it. After an individual had succeeded – and realised it had been duped – it soon lost interest! Later, we tried to see a Bearded Reedling that called near the boat, but the wind probably accounted for its reluctance to show.

We re-joined the flotel for lunch, after which we stayed on board as it cruised back to Tulcea. Initially we went along quite narrow channels, where we finally managed to see a Ferruginous Duck on the water, albeit briefly! We passed ridiculously close to what was presumably the same White-tailed Eagle perched in a tree above us as we saw two days earlier. The songs of Thrush Nightingales and Collared Flycatchers emanated from the fringing trees as we retraced our journey back along the Mile 36 channel, and three separate Goldeneyes flew by, presumably to or from their nests in old Black Woodpecker holes.

Our final delicious dinner on the flotel was enlivened by the arrival of a birthday cake for Rosemary, after which some of the group took a stroll along the river to see a bit of Tulcea. Not expecting to find any birds, we were surprised to hear a Scops Owl calling from buildings on the edge of a small square; our lack of binoculars prevented us from finding its location, though Andy caught glimpses of it in flight.

Day 8

Saturday 13th May

Denizdepe, Babadag Forest & Vadu

It was clear from the sunny conditions and light breeze on deck that today was going to be the warmest so far. We enjoyed our last breakfast on the flotel, wishing Terry a happy birthday, and then bade farewell to the lovely crew, who had looked after us so well. The coach arrived and soon we were on our way south for what proved to be our most varied day yet, in terms of habitats visited and species encountered.

First stop was the isolated steppe hillside and surrounding arable fields of Denizdepe. Soon after leaving the main road, a Lesser Grey Shrike was spotted and later we disembarked to look at a Black-headed Bunting singing from the top of a utility pole, one of many that Spanish Sparrows were nesting inside. As we walked on towards the hillside, a Swallowtail flew past the group and Dave pointed out the first of several Brown Argus butterflies. A Tawny Pipit gave us excellent views as it sat on a trackside rock, while a European Ground Squirrel (Souslik) popped up in the background. Four Whinchats in an open field led us to find the first of a good number of Northern and Isabelline Wheatears. A Booted Eagle drew our eyes skywards, followed later by Long-legged Buzzard and Short-toed Snake Eagle. Ortolan Buntings singing from bushes on the slope took some time to pin down. A Short-toed Lark sang in flight, while half a dozen Rollers were scattered around on wires, some of them

engaging in the acrobatic displays that give them their name. Finally, as we gathered at the bus to move on, a Quail called from the nearest field, and three Honey Buzzards circled as we drove back to the main road.

The next stop, in contrast, was in the lush woodlands of Babadag Forest. Here Florin soon located a Red-breasted Flycatcher song, though actually seeing the bird took everyone a little time. Another sang nearby, as did a couple of Wood Warblers. Directly overhead, some Hawfinches peeped through the canopy, briefly giving decent views to those who happened to be looking in the right place. Moving on south-east through mounting clouds and occasional showers, we saw a Lesser Grey Shrike as we approach the town of Vadu, where we had our picnic lunch in the shelter of large umbrellas outside a café/shop. Food, drinks, ice creams and we kept dry!

At the coastal marshes after lunch, we disembarked as three Ruddy Shelducks flew by. Dave was excited by rare Dark Spreadwings emerging from a brackish area of Sea Clubrush, while Red-footed Falcons and a good variety, though small numbers, of waders vied for our attention. The latter included Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Little and Temminck's Stints, Curlew and Marsh Sandpipers, and best of all 40 or more Collared Pratincoles. The last patrolled constantly over the marshes, giving excellent views as they passed a vantage point on a bridge. We saw the only Spoonbills of the trip from here, but not to be missed were at least half a dozen Paddyfield Warblers, remarkably obvious as they sang high up in the reeds.

Moving on to the coast itself, we found Kentish Plovers, Turnstones and Mediterranean Gulls on the beach, while offshore were Sandwich and Black Terns and two pale phase Arctic Skuas, the first of which gave lengthy chase of a tern, finally collecting its haul of disgorged fish from the sea surface. At least two Harbour Porpoises passed by, but time had run out and it was time to return to our guest house in Tulcea, to where our luggage had been magically transferred! More complimentary brandies also greeted us, and of course there were opportunities for more and varied beverages during and after a tasty dinner. Forewarned, the staff came up trumps again and dinner ended with a birthday cake for Terry.

Day 9

Sunday 14th May

Danube viewpoint, Celic Dere & Macin Mountains

After breakfast, we headed west out of Tulcea, stopping soon at a viewpoint over the upper reaches of the Danube Delta. As we walked down beside grassland, Susliks caught our attention, and then a very lucky sighting of its arch-enemy: a Saker! This large falcon appeared several times over the slope before swinging closer to us in a spectacular arc and disappearing over the brow. Further down were sandy cliffs where Roller and Bee-eater breed; both gave us good views, but not so two other members of the famously colourful European quartet, Golden Oriole and Kingfisher, with only flight glimpses for some of the Oriole. Scanning the marshes revealed many of the wetland birds already seen, including a few Ferruginous Ducks.

Our next stop was at woodland and wood pasture a short distance inland at Celic Dere monastery, where some chose to look at the monastery. Florin tried in vain to attract Sombre Tit, but nevertheless we found a nice range of species, including Booted Eagles, Turtle Doves, Grey-headed and Green Woodpeckers, Woodlark, Golden Oriole and Hawfinch, while Red-breasted Flycatcher sang in the woods.

We drove on to the Macin Mountains, where we had picnic lunch out of the wind as best we could, and later walked up the Pricopan Trail between rocky crests and outcrops. A Pied Wheatear appeared all too briefly on the

skyline (though Terry saw it again on the way down), while Ortolan Buntings proved easier to find than yesterday. A male Levant Sparrowhawk showed beautifully as it circled several times, while later a pair of Honey Buzzards circled in parallel display, as if attached by an invisible string. At least two Red-rumped Swallows fed over the slopes with Barn Swallows and Nightingale songs bursting forth from the shrubs. Butterflies were evident in the warm shelter of the valley, including an immaculate Silver-washed Fritillary basking beside the path and a Scarce Swallowtail. Nearby, close to Graci, was an area of short steppe grassland holding dozens of Souseliks and Isabelline Wheatears: they seemed to be everywhere! Long-legged Buzzard, Turtle Doves and Hoopoe were also seen, but, try as he might, Florin had to admit defeat with the Stone-curlews that had showed so well the previous week. We weren't too disappointed though, considering what he had managed to show us today and indeed during the past week or so. There was complimentary wine again for our last Romanian dinner, which ended in splendid fashion with cake and bubbly!

Day 10

Monday 15th May

Tulcea - Bucharest - London Heathrow

We packed our bags and set off after breakfast for the drive back to Bucharest. About an hour into the journey, we took a break to check out an area of large arable fields for Calandra Lark, which so far only the guides had managed to see. Grey Partridges flew off as we disembarked and, after unsuccessful scans from the roadside, Florin suggested walking down a track between the crops, which proved a good move. Before long we had seen several Calandra Larks (even walking on the track), along with Skylarks, Black-headed Wagtails and Corn Buntings, while dozens of Bee-eaters headed north overhead. A ringtail harrier flew passed us against the sun, but when we returned to the bus it was hunting the fields with a Marsh Harrier, and now in better light. Photographs showed the dark secondaries above and below that are characteristic of Pallid Harrier.

We stopped a little further on to look at Red-footed Falcons that were nesting amongst a rookery in small False Acacias. Two pairs of these lovely birds circled us, giving their repetitive alarm calls as they zoomed around in the wind. Returning soon to the bus, we spotted a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes in dead branches: very smart birds too. A pair of Ruddy Shelduck was seen in flight as we motored on to a comfort stop, after which we made for Budapest along the fast highway. Peter noted – rather provocatively – that last year's report had mentioned a late arrival at the airport due to city-centre traffic, and we didn't want that to happen to us should we make a small detour to see some of the city's fine architecture, did we? Florin pointed out that on weekdays it was quicker to go through the centre, and in the event we did do some sightseeing! A circuit of Ceausescu's impressive Palace of the Parliament revealed its four similar faces, while Florin reeled off some impressive facts (second largest administrative building after the Pentagon, with 1100 rooms, for example). Yes, the traffic did mean that we were half-an-hour later than expected at check-in, but that went very smoothly, leaving us plenty of time before boarding our flight back to Heathrow. We said our farewells to Florin and Sorin, who had provided such excellent support throughout our time in Romania, and to Linda, who was flying home next day. Both departure and arrival back at Heathrow were about half-an-hour late, but our departure from Terminal 5 was remarkable. Our plane was directed to a stand very close to immigration and we collected our baggage and were saying our farewells in record time: a neat end to a great holiday!

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May												
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15			
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>													2
2	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>										H			
3	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	✓	1		1	1	1	H	1			1	1	
4	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			✓	✓	40	✓	✓	✓	✓				
5	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	50	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>								2			4		
7	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										3			2
8	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				1	✓	✓	✓	2	8	✓	✓		
9	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓	15	10						
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				2	8	25	10	1	5				
12	Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>								3					
13	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>						13	1	16					
14	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓				
15	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>							2						
16	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	1												
17	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	2	100	3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓	30	✓	✓				✓	✓	
19	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>									14				
20	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H	H			H				
21	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				4									
22	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				2	20	30	10						
23	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				✓	30	30	35	✓	✓				
24	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	1		2	1	20	10	✓	2					
25	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓	20	25	20	1					1
26	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				2	15	1	2	1	1				
27	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				1	500	50	250	50	✓				
29	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					13	8	5						

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
30	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				✓	100	50	55				
31	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
32	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		5		1					3	2	
33	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					6	2	3				
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>									1	1	
35	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	3		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓
36	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>				1							1
37	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				2							1?
38	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>										1	
39	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1									
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	3	✓	1	1		1	H		2	
41	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1					1	2	
42	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>			5							1	
43	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									1	2	
44	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	2	1	✓	2	1			3	2	✓
45	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				5		10	11	10	10	1	4
46	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1	1		14	✓	11	1		✓	
47	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>										1	
48	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1									
49	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					H						
50	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	2			✓	✓	✓	H			1	
51	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	100	✓	✓				
52	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				3					✓		
53	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>									6		
54	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	1	✓			✓		✓
55	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									3		
56	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>									2		
57	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>									4		
58	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									2		
59	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>									1		
60	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					1	3			✓		
61	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									4		

	Common name	Scientific name	May											
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
62	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										2		
63	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>										3		
64	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										2		
65	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										1		
66	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>										10		
67	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>										40		
68	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>										2		
69	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓		30	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
70	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>						20				30		
71	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>										10		
72	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>							1	1				
73	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	1					30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>										1		
75	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓		3			3	1		
76	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>										12		
77	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	300	✓	
78	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
79	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						25	1	1				
80	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						30	2	1	3			
81	Rock Dove / Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
82	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>						2			2			
83	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	1	✓	1	✓		1	1			✓	
84	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>											10	
85	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	2	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			2	2	10	12	12	12	2	2	1	H
87	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>									1			
88	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>										1		
89	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		2										
90	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	30	✓	✓				2	✓	
91	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>						2	3	5	6	10	10	✓
92	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						20	2	✓			H	
93	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				30		4	6			28	30	1

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
94	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					2	2	20	✓	60	50
95	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			1							
96	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					H	H				
97	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>						2			H	
98	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2	1		✓	1	2			
99	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			2H		3					
100	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			1						2	
101	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			1		2	3			1	
102	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			4	1				✓	6	
103	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								2		2
104	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			3		2	1		H	5	
105	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		1	✓					1	1	
106	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	✓
107	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		1	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
108	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓		✓	1	✓		✓	✓	✓
109	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
110	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		3	5			2				
111	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		2	✓							
112	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓							
113	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
114	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1		✓	✓	✓		✓	
115	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					1	H				
116	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>							H			
117	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				1					1	10
118	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								1	1	
119	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				1				✓		
120	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			3						1	
121	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			H					2		✓
122	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
125	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									2	

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
126	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			H		2	2	H			
127	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		H			H	H	H			
128	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H		✓	H	H	H	H	
129	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2							2H	
130	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		1	
131	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						✓				
132	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									7	
133	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				2		12	✓		1	
134	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					H	H	H	H		
135	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						6	4H	H		
136	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			✓		✓	H	H	H		
137	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			4		H		H	H	H	
138	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1			H	✓	H			
139	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			1							
140	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		1								
141	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H								
142	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1								
143	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		2						H	H	
144	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		2H								
145	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			1	2	✓
147	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		6	2							
148	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	H	H	H						1	H
149	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			1							
150	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	H							1
151	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>						1				
152	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					H		H			
153	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				H					2H	
154	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2	H	H			1			1
155	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					2			H		
156	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			4						4	2
157	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>										1

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
158	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									8	100	
159	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>							2		6	1	
160	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>										1	
161	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		2				✓	1	1			
162	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>						1	H	H			
163	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>									2	H	
164	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		2									
165	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	H	✓	✓	✓			2	✓	✓	✓	✓
166	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>									20		✓
167	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			10			✓	✓			✓	
168	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>				2	1	1			2		✓
	Romanian Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava dombrowskii</i>										1	1
169	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		3									
170	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		1	✓			✓	✓	✓	1	✓	
171	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									3	H	✓
172	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			2								
173	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓			✓	H	✓	✓	✓	
174	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		2	H								
175	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓								2	
176	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		2	H	2	1			2		20	
177	Common Linnnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		4								1	
178	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			6								
179	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			2						F	F	
180	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓			H		✓	✓	✓
181	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		4									
182	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>									2	2	
183	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>									2	1	
184	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							10	✓			

Mammals (S = signs; D = dead)

1	Common Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	S	S	S	S						D	S
2	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>										1	

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
3	Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			4+								
4	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			S							S	
5	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>									2+		
6	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			1		1						
7	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>		1									
8	Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>							1				
9	European Ground Squirrel (Souslik)	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>									2	✓	
10	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>				1					1		1

Amphibians (H = Heard)

1	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		1									
2	Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>						3H			H		
3	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			2								
4	European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>					1						
5	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp(p)</i>				H	H	✓	✓			H	

Reptiles (D = dead)

1	Lizard sp(p)	Lacertidae									2		
2	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>				D							

Butterflies

1	Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>									1		
2	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclytes podalirius</i>										1	
3	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>											1
4	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓							1		
5	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓									
6	Clouded yellow sp.	<i>Colias sp.</i>											
7	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		1									
8	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>										1	
9	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>									✓	1	1
10	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>						1			1	1	

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
11	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		1	1				1				
12	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa virginiensis</i>											1
13	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>			1								
14	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>										1	
15	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>									✓	1	
16	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		2									
17	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>									1		

Day-flying Moths

1	Burnet Companion	<i>Euclidia glyphica</i>			1								
2	Mother Shipton	<i>Callistege mi</i>			1								
3	Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>										1	
4	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>										✓	

Other insects (H = Heard)

1	Dark Spreadwing	<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>								30			
2	Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						4	✓				
3	Hairy Hawker	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>						2					
4	Field cricket	<i>Gryllus (campestris?)</i>	H								H	H	H
5	Firebug	<i>Pyrrhocoris (apterus?)</i>									✓		
6	A chafer beetle	<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i>		1									

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