

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 22 May 2017



European Brown Bear by Ian Tulloch



Dalmatian & Great White Pelicans by Ian Tulloch



Red-footed Falcon by Ian Tulloch



European Roller by Neil Pont

Report compiled by Byron Palacios
Images courtesy of Ian Tulloch & Neil Pont



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Byron Palacios (leader) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 13th May

London Heathrow – Bucharest – Transylvania

We all arrived on time at Heathrow Airport to catch our British Airways flight to Bucharest, which was really smooth. We landed on time at Bucharest and after collecting our luggage, met our local guide Laurentiu (Laurence) who quickly took us down to our minibus to start our journey to the mountains.

We split the journey in half with a quick leg stretch and facilities by a beautiful mountain forest, continuing the journey to our guest house in the village of Predelut, in the outskirts of Bran. We checked-in to our comfortable rooms with astonishing views of the mountains and then gathered together in the restaurant to enjoy a rather late but much enjoyed dinner! We then retired to our bedrooms to rest.

Day 2

Sunday 14th May

Piatra Craiului National Park (Zarnesti Gorges) – Kingston Mountain – Bran

After a delicious breakfast, we made sandwiches of our choice for lunch and packed them into our rucksacks before setting off on the short drive to the Zarnesti Gorges, where we rapidly engaged with White-throated Dipper and Grey Wagtail just after exiting the minibus. We started our walk up the track towards the gorges, going from the wide part of the track to a very narrow section in the forest where Song Thrush, Firecrest and Black Woodpecker were spotted on the way. Many Wood Warblers were actively calling and singing away but none really wanted to show themselves, which was a shame. We saw lots of Alpine Swifts flying amongst the gorges, which we saw really close and very well. We also had great views of a beautiful Wallcreeper.

After a good walk, we arrived at a nice spot where we enjoyed our picnic lunch. Making our way back to the minibus afterwards, we found more interesting things along the track. We then drove a short distance to the village of Moieciu where we took a short walk, enjoying some lovely birds and the landscape.

After this nice stroll, we drove to the village of Bran to take photographs of the village and Dracula's Castle, followed by a landscape stop over the ridge which produced some Honey Buzzards and Garden Warbler. We then returned to Bran to visit its very famous castle. Once in Bran, an interesting historic village and home to the infamous Vlad The Impaler and the Dracula legend, our leisure time started and some of us enjoyed visiting the castle and surroundings of the village, finding first-hand information about the different dynasties related to this enchanted village and its mysterious and full-of-history castle, including the fiction that involves Dracula.

After this interesting visit to Bran, we drove back to our hotel, just in time for a break followed by another delicious dinner and local drinks!

Day 3

Monday 15th May

Stramba Valley – Coltul Chiilor (Piatra Craiului National Park) – Bear Sanctuary

After another lovely early breakfast, we embarked in our minibus and drove into the Stramba Valley. We started with a gently walk along the flat dirt track which produced interesting birds such as Red-backed Shrike, Tree

Pipit, White Wagtail, Black and Common Redstarts, Eurasian Jay, Common Blackbird, Northern Raven, Yellowhammer, Honey Buzzard, Golden Oriole and beautiful views of a few Lesser Spotted Eagles soaring in the blue sky; some of them very close to us! A very nice Yellow-bellied Toad – held in Laurence's hands! – was found along the track alongside lovely butterflies and insects. Very loud Corn Crakes (which were impossible to see despite our efforts) were 'cracking' nearby. Also seen were Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goshawk and Fieldfare.

After this good birding walk we returned to our minibus and drove back to our lodge for lunch. We then prepared ourselves for the afternoon expedition, which took us to the area of Coltul Chiilor, located in the outskirts of Zarnesti. Here, we had a good walk up the hills which produced interesting birds such as Black Woodpecker, Goshawk, Red-backed Shrike and Tree Pipit, amongst others.

We then walked back to the minibus and drove to the private forest reserve to meet the ranger who kindly guided us to the area where a pristine forest treasured one of the most fantastic animals on earth: the Brown Bear. We arrived at the hide around 6pm after a fairly good walk from the point where our minibus dropped us off. Once inside the box hide we took our places on the benches provided, getting great views of our first male Brown Bear right away! We had a fantastic moment watching this beautiful individual munching the snacks provided and scattering around the old hollow tree logs. Once he left, a very wary Red Fox adventured on the feeder for a bit. We had to wait quietly a little longer but our patience paid off when another two individuals came to eat at different times. At one point they were all together: two males and a young female. We all had a great time watching them in perfect light conditions!

As evening drew in, we left the hide and walked down the narrow trail, enjoying the gorgeous landscape hit by a beautiful sunset. Once in the minibus, we drove back down towards Zarnesti and eventually to Predelut and our lodge, and enjoyed some well-deserved drinks after a very enjoyable great day excursion.

Day 4

Tuesday 16th May

Transylvania to Tulcea (birding en route at Lakes Glodeanu & Hasarlac)

It was time to have our last breakfast at the lovely Transylvania Inn, whose staff had looked after us very well for the last three days. We rapidly stowed our bags in the minibus trailer and left the Bran area, heading south and then east via the huge agricultural areas of Ploiesti and Slobovia, towards Tulcea and the Danube Delta. It was a long journey but we split it, making a couple of comfort stops for facilities, coffee and snacks. We drove in the lowlands, on top of the Dobrogea plateau, and down in the area of Lake Glodeanu where Purple Heron, Common Pochard, Great Crested Grebe, Great Cormorant, Garganey, Red-crested Pochard, Yellow Wagtail, European Roller and Whiskered Tern were spotted.

We then continued to drive further afield, crossing the fabulous Danube river bridge and making a stop in the upper basin at the lake of Hasarlac, where we saw more interesting birds such as Great Egret, Penduline Tit, Ferruginous Duck, Caspian Gull, Whiskered Tern, Red-footed Falcon, Eurasian Cuckoo and Pygmy Cormorant amongst others.

We boarded our minibus again to drive our final leg down to Tulcea, on the shore of the Danube. We arrived in the old harbour where our comfortable floating hotel awaited us. We boarded the flotel (floating hotel) and were

welcomed by its crew with a delicious glass of local schnapps and sweet pastries. All the group members were astonished by the immaculately high standard of both the accommodation and dining room on board, so the standard of our meal was not a surprise: it was delicious! We enjoyed our dinner and went to bed for a well deserved rest, looking forward for a fantastic few days down in the Delta.

Day 5

Wednesday 17th May

Danube Delta (mile 36 & Maliuc) – Lake Nebuno – Lake Furtuna – Old Danube

We woke to a beautiful sunny morning with the early sounds of the river, the city and the motorized boats at Tulcea's port. After a delicious breakfast on board, we left our floating hotel behind and started our first day on the Danube, exploring the river delta on our expedition 'small' boat. From the point known as mile 36, we followed the fast-flowing current for a good fifty minutes before turning into a side channel. Common Kingfishers were flying along the thick Willow trees shores, Pygmy Cormorants were crossing along the channel and colourful European Rollers were shining. We explored the area of Maliuc where the Danube National Park's headquarters are based. We focussed mostly on the channel banks and willow forests, where we found a great variety of birds such as Common Redstart, singing Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Thrush Nightingale, striking Golden Orioles, easy to spot and obvious Rollers, Pygmy Cormorant, Black-crowned Night Heron, Little Egret and Squacco Heron, amongst others.

We had a coffee break at the entrance to Lake Nebuno, from where we enjoy watching large groups of Great White Pelicans drifting over in squadrons and a pair of Dalmatian Pelicans flying more independently. We also saw many pairs of Hobby soaring nearby and being mobbed by Hooded Crows and other smaller birds, with Common Cuckoo being the most numerous species seen and heard so far.

After drifting down the many channels, we managed to catch up with our flotel to have lunch enjoying the landscape, especially when we started sailing down the river which made our lunch time even more enjoyable. Along the endless rows of willow trees were Rollers, Pygmy Cormorants, Marsh Harriers, Hobbies and a singing Savi's Warbler. Also seen were Purple, Squacco and Grey Herons, Common Cuckoo, Ferruginous Duck and Red-necked Grebe, amongst many others. We then went downstairs to enjoy a cool break followed by a delicious dinner and drinks.

Day 6

Thursday 18th May

Magearu Channel – Letea – Lopatna (overnight)

It was another morning in the heart of the Danube Delta, surrounded by the vast reedbeds and water canals. The weather was nice and sunny but cold winds were blowing from the north, making our morning out in the boat really cold: very unusual weather for this time of the year in the Delta - sunny but with chilly Siberian winds. Despite this, we sailed along the Magearu Channel to the village of Letea where we took a walk to see this beautiful and traditional village, including the buildings and lifestyle of the locals. Around the ancient traditional buildings we saw fantastic birds such as Eurasian Reed Warbler, Eurasian Hoopoe, Black Redstart, Common Cuckoo, European Bee-eater, Lesser Whitethroat, Northern Wheatear and the always gorgeous Eurasian Penduline Tit. After a good stroll around the village, we were back to the river on our excursion boat, heading back to our flotel while listening to Penduline Tits and Great Reed Warblers. We also saw dozens of Squacco

Hérons, Rollers, Common Cuckoos, Black-crowned Night Herons and plenty more! Once back at our flotel, we enjoyed lunch and a break.

We did some leisure birding from our flotel, watching singing Common Redstarts, colourful Rollers and standing Squacco Herons. We arrived at a beautiful channel, almost clogged with Water Chestnut but full of Great Crested Grebes, Whiskered Terns, a few Dalmatian Pelican and lots of Great White Pelicans.

We enjoyed a beautiful end to the day with a gorgeous sunset which we watched whilst dining. We all enjoyed the new location and the sounds surrounding it as the evening turned dark.

Day 7

Friday 19th May

Lopatna – Stipoc – Razaboinita – Sontea Canal (mile 36 to Tulcea)

Our last day in the massive Danube Delta, we woke to a windy morning with a chilly wind. We set off again in the little boat, exploring new backwaters and small lakes. The whole gamut of herons appeared with Squacco Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron being the most numerous. European Rollers outnumbered Common Cuckoos, which were in themselves numerous with lots being brown females. Hobbies were around too and we spotted a few pairs of Red-footed Falcons nesting along the canal in the willows. We also found a few pairs of Red-necked Grebes and at least four pairs of Black-necked Grebes, all pleasantly swimming on crystal clear waters of the lake system of Stipoc-Razaboinitia. We also saw two pairs of Black Terns, and Whiskered Terns were everywhere.

The weather was dry and sunny, and the cold wind eventually got better by the time we passed through other channels and the old fishery, where another pair of Red-footed Falcons were seen. Other interesting birds were Golden Oriole, Common Redstart, Eurasian Hoopoe, nesting White Storks and large groups of Great White Pelicans soaring in the sky. We met our flotel again and boarded to enjoy a delicious lunch followed by sailing back to Tulcea, which took the whole afternoon. This allowed us to relax and enjoy the journey while spotting wildlife from the mid and top decks. We enjoyed stunning views of beautiful birds such as hundreds of Great White Pelicans, Western Marsh Harriers, the always beautiful European Roller, Common Kingfisher and many more.

Once in Tulcea, another lovely dinner was served in the evening, overlooking the Danube with the town in the background; a very different but very nice contrast! We then went to our cabins for a restful night.

Day 8

Saturday 20th May

Denistepe – Babadag Forest – Histria – Sinoe (Black Sea area)

After our usual delicious breakfast, we drove out of Tulcea and headed south to explore a section of the Black Sea coast. Our first stop was around Denistepe, where we managed to see a few interesting species of birds such as Black-headed Wagtail, Tawny Pipit, Corn Bunting, Spanish Sparrow, Marsh Harrier, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Hobby, Isabelline Wheatear, and the very handsome Black-headed Bunting which was one of the target birds at this site. We also had great views of Linnet, Greater Short-toed Lark, Eurasian Skylark and fantastic close views of a pale-morph Booted Eagle.

Satisfied with the results from this site, we continued our drive by passing through the Turkish-descendant village of Babadag and eventually to its diverse oak woodland, located south-east from the village. Our minibus was parked on the main roadside and next to one of the access points to the Babadag Forest, from where we enjoyed a good walk encompassing some excellent flowers and butterflies, alongside two species of lizards, moths and crickets. This forest normally produces a great number of birds but it was quite poor this morning, perhaps due to the hot temperature. Anyway, we enjoyed the walk very much. Once back in the minibus, we carried on our drive, changing the forest habitat for a vast open marshland area adjacent to the Black Sea known as Histria. Here we had views of the local Romanian Yellow Wagtail, Great Reed Warbler, Reed Bunting, Common Shelduck, Black-winged Stilt, Eurasian Spoonbill, and Grey and Purple Herons, amongst others, while we enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch. We then had a stroll amongst the marshes, looking for the elusive Paddyfield Warbler which was seen by some really well with great views of a pair.

The landscape stayed pretty much the same as we continued our approach to the seaside. We watched old buildings and large concreted structures, once used during the communist era and left behind as ruins since capitalism ruled the nation. It was a grim contrast with the surrounding nature. Another stop produced a good flock of our first Collared Pratincoles, which were sharing the flooded marshland with Redshank, Pied Avocet, hundreds of nesting Common Terns, and a few Mediterranean, Little, Black-headed and Caspian Gulls. We finally got to the seaside which had a few local holidaymakers enjoying a sunny and pleasant afternoon by the sea. Some of us enjoyed a dip in the waters of the Black Sea. Pygmy Cormorant and Dalmatian Pelican were seen here very well.

We then returned to the minibus to start our long drive back to Tulcea, where we arrived with time for a break before drinks and a delicious last supper. We all lifted our glasses and made a toast, wishing each other all the best for the future. We also talked about our memories of the tour and of the best parts of Romania. Our cook proudly presented us with a special farewell cake, and some champagne glasses came along to reinforce our celebration! We thanked them all for looking after us very well during the tour! We also expressed to our local guide Laurence our deep thanks for sharing the wildlife of his lovely country with us!

Day 9

Sunday 21st May

Parches – Măcin Mountains National Park (Parcul National Muntii Macinului)

We woke to a beautiful morning over Tulcea and the river Danubio. After a delicious breakfast, sadly our last in our flotel, we left the river cruiser with all we needed for the day, while our main luggage was taken to the next hotel, about a mile away from the harbour. We said goodbye to our lovely crew and thanked them for looking after us during the last four days. We boarded our minibus and drove out of Tulcea, heading east and making our first stop thirty minutes later in the monastery village of Celic Dere. Here we took a nice walk along the beautiful Balkan countryside, enjoying great birds such as European Honey Buzzard, European Bee-eater, Turtle Dove, Red-backed Shrike, Icterine Warbler and Booted Eagle. The fields in the upper hill and forest offered great views of Spotted Flycatcher, another Icterine Warbler, and great views of Woodchat Shrike and Red-back Shrike, both perched together on a same bush. Black Storks were flying in the sky, while Souseliks were running around the fields.

After this enjoyable walk, we drove for more than an hour to the village of Macin, where we stopped to use facilities and get some refreshments. Continuing to our next stop, the Macin Mountains, we enjoyed a delicious

lunch surrounded by the beautiful landscape and by Lesser Grey Shrike, Corn Bunting, Turtle Dove and Golden Oriole!

After lunch we set off for a walk, following the main gully, from where we saw great birds such as Tawny Pipit, Northern Wheatear, Common Kestrel, and fantastic views of the beautiful Pied Wheatear. We also had great views of a wonderful Short-toed Snake Eagle, and a male Levant's Sparrowhawk soaring above our heads in the blue sky: brilliant! We also found a beautiful male Common Rock Thrush, Golden Oriole, and had fantastic views of soaring and perched Long-legged Buzzard that we enjoyed watching through the telescope.

After this visit, we headed back to Tulcea where our new town hotel was expecting us with comfortable rooms and a delicious supper!

Day 10

Monday 22nd May

Tulcea – Bucharest airport

Another nice and sunny morning dawned as a friendly farewell to us. After a delicious breakfast, we packed our belongings, which were efficiently transferred to our bus, and we bade a warm farewell to everyone in the guest house who had looked after us very well. We started our drive back to Bucharest, making a leg-stretch stop half way, followed by a lunch stop near the airport.

We arrived at the airport with plenty of time to sort out our luggage and proceed to the check-in. After boarding, we had a smooth and comfortable flight back to Heathrow Airport, where we arrived in good time and had more farewells at the luggage carousel.

It was a fantastic tour: a journey full of highlights and great wildlife, accompanied by fairly good weather (although a little cold whilst in the heart of the Delta) which was good to us for most of the time. Our hotel in the Carpathian Mountains, our floating hotel in the Danube and our guest house in Tulcea were fantastic, and the staff the kindest you could ever want, showing passion to making visitors most welcome and very happy in their country; all sealed with the warmest and eloquent smile! They truly gave their best to make our trip a real success and unforgettable. We left with wonderful memories, from the mysterious Carpathian Mountains to the vast and endless-looking living labyrinth of the Danube Delta!

La revedere Rumania...Multumesc! (Goodbye Romania...Many thanks!)

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
30	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
31	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
32	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		✓		✓					✓	
33	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		✓							✓	
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								✓		
35	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			✓	✓						
36	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									✓	
37	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									✓	
38	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓								
39	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			✓							
40	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓			
42	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								✓	✓	
43	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
44	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>							h			
45	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>			h	h						
46	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
47	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
48	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>									✓	
49	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>								✓		
50	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>								✓		
51	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>								✓		
52	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								✓		
54	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓		
55	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								✓		
56	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								✓		
57	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								✓		
58	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								✓		
59	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>								✓		
60	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								✓		
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May										
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
62	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>									✓		
63	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>										✓	
64	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
65	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>								✓	✓		
66	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		
67	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
68	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						✓	✓	✓			
69	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓		
70	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
71	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>					✓						✓
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
74	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartia melba</i>		✓									
76	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	
77	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
78	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						✓	✓	✓			
79	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
80	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>						✓	✓	h	✓	✓	
81	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>											✓
82	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>						h					
83	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓				
84	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		✓	✓			h		✓			
85	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		h	✓	h							
86	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		h				✓	✓	✓		✓	
87	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
88	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
89	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						✓		✓	✓	✓	
90	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>						✓					
91	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓									✓
92	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
93	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>						✓		✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
94	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			✓		h	✓	✓		✓	
95	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓						
96	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
97	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>			✓							
98	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
99	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
100	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
101	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
102	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		h	h	h						
103	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		h	✓	✓						
104	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
105	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
106	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	h			
107	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>							✓			
108	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			✓						h	
109	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓					h	
110	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓				✓		
111	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>									✓	
112	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓			✓	✓	
113	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
115	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓			✓	✓			
116	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					h					
117	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		h	✓			✓	✓			
118	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>									h	
119	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	h		
120	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						✓				
121	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								✓		
122	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	✓	✓	h		
123	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					h				✓	
124	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					✓	✓	✓			
125	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		h	✓		h	✓	h		h	

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
126	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		✓		✓	h	h				
127	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			✓		h	h	h			
128	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓								
129	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		h								
130	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		h		✓					h	
131	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓						
132	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		✓								
133	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					✓					
134	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
135	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
136	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓	✓	✓						
137	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				h					✓	
138	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓							
139	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>							✓			
140	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓		h	h		✓	
141	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					h	h	h			
142	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>			h	h	h	h	h			
143	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>				✓						
144	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		h								
145	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓		
146	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
147	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>									✓	
148	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>					✓	✓		✓	✓	
149	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								✓	✓	
150	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									✓	
151	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		✓								
152	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
153	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								✓		
154	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
155	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓			✓	✓		
155a	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
156	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
157	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
158	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									✓	
159	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓							
160	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
161	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>										✓
162	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓								
163	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓							✓
164	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓					✓	
165	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓
166	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓				✓	✓	✓
167	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		h	✓							
168	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>										h
169	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>									✓	✓
170	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		2	1							
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			3							
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>									✓	
4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓							
5	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			1							
6	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>									✓	
7	European Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>								✓		
8	Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>									✓	✓

Amphibians

1	Yellow bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			✓							
2	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>			h		✓	✓				
3	Fire bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>			h							
4	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		✓								
5	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					✓					

	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Reptiles

1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>								✓		
---	-------------	----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	---	--	--

Butterflies

Danube Clouded Yellow	Painted Lady	Cardinal
Common Blue	Brown Argus	Knapweed Fritillary
Black-veined White	Amanda's Blue	Chapman's Blue
Safflower Skipper	Queen-of-Spain Fritillary	Freyer's Fritillary

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Red-eyed Damselfly	Norfolk Hawker	Blue-tailed Damselfly
Migrant Hawker		

Moths

Cream-spot Tiger

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.



Sunset at the heart of the Danube by Ian Tulloch