

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 14 August 2017



Golden Jackal



Lattice Brown



Lesser Spotted Eagle



White-winged Terns, Mediterranean Gull and Little Gulls

Report and images by Andy Harding



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour participants: Andy Harding (Leader), Florin Palade (Romanian guide and naturalist),  
And 14 Naturetrek clients.

## Day 1

Saturday 5th August

40 °C in Bucharest, 25 °C in Zarnesti

All of the group flying out of Stansted had priority booking and were sitting in fairly adjacent seats on the plane. However, Andy had met nearly everybody at the boarding gate. The flight was straightforward and arrived on time in Bucharest, but we seemed to take very different lengths of time getting through passport control. However, we eventually all met up at the baggage-reclaim carousel and exited to meet Florin, our local guide, and the two remaining members of our group, Peter and Pat.

The air conditioning in the bus and the water, which was rapidly handed round, were essential as it was extremely warm in Bucharest. As we headed out through the suburbs and across flat agricultural land towards Ploesti, Florin gave us an introduction to Bucharest, Romania and the agricultural area through which we were passing. In general birding from the bus was a little impractical, but the occasional Marsh Harriers and some White Storks whetted the appetite. The landscape changed as we moved into the hills, following the Prahova River valley towards Sinaia and we stopped for petrol and coffee or ice cream. The stop also produced a superb Dryad butterfly...shades of things to come.

The tourist traffic then became very heavy and we were delayed considerably before we eventually arrived at our Pension Elena in the town of Zarnesti. Here we were welcomed by a drink of plum brandy followed by a much-enjoyed dinner helped down with Prahova Valley wine. And so to bed ...

## Day 2

Sunday 6th August

32 °C max, fine

A bright and lovely morning greeted us for an early morning stroll (for some), followed by an excellent breakfast, during which we also made up our individual packed lunches for later.

We set out on a 30-minute drive to the Stramba valley, but just before we got there a Lesser Spotted Eagle was seen on a fence post close to the road. This gave us brilliant photo opportunities of this magnificent raptor. Having moved on and just turned onto the valley track, an even closer Lesser Spotted Eagle was intent on catching rodents in a newly cut hayfield. It was so engrossed it did not notice the clicking cameras.

Then we took a leisurely ramble along this broad valley with the bus following. Bee-eaters were very evident and obliging, while Red-backed Shrikes could be seen in all directions, indicating abundant large-insect life. The resident Honey Buzzards made two accommodating fly-overs. This is always a great area for Woodpeckers. Lesser Spotted (now so scarce in the UK), Great Spotted and juvenile Green were seen by the group, but a Grey-headed by only two lucky observers. Passerines were hard to find, with many Marsh Tits the most obvious bird of interest. Despite the early hour, butterflies were abundant, including several Dryads and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries. Most Blues were Common, but Short-tailed Blue was also regularly seen. The butterfly enthusiasts

continued in the sun, while most of the group took a welcome shade break while the bus was summoned. The former were rewarded with a striking Large Copper and three or four Sooty Coppers.

We took the bus further into the valley and walked in spectacular Beech forest, where birds were really thin on the ground. On the flowers here, High Brown and Silver-washed Fritillaries were joined by Scotch Argus.

Returning to the outskirts of Zarnesti, the top of a low hill saw us enjoying seven Great Grey Shrikes (they are close to the southern limit of their breeding range here), while 88 White Storks in a couple of fields indicated the start of White Stork migration. Of course, we had to visit Bran, to see the famous castle and enjoy an ice cream or a beer. Our final stop was a viewing point high above the Bran Valley. Florin explained how the different sides of the valley had been formed by different mechanisms in the distant past, and we were also able to get great views of four Alpine Swifts which mingled with the many Common Swifts and House Martins. A few Fieldfares added to the mix. A huge ring of pretzels from a mobile delicatessen van provided an interesting (but unnecessary) taster before we returned for dinner.

## Day 3

Monday 7th August

Dull and overcast in the morning, with occasional sunny breaks; torrential rain just before lunch; humid subsequently; max 25 °C

After breakfast it was only a short drive to the mouth of the Zarnesti Gorge. We took the bus for the first kilometre, then taking all necessary gear, walked slowly up the impressive gorge searching the high rock walls for Wallcreeper. The group gave this a real go, but despite the fact that the birds had bred successfully here earlier in the season, sadly, we were unsuccessful. Overhead, Crag Martins wheeled high up. The odd Black Redstart, Grey Wagtail and Marsh Tit enlivened proceedings. Rather distant Nutcrackers called and were only seen in flight. They were persistent however, so everyone obtained something of a view of them. Equally high up in the same area was a group of Chamois, which being fairly static, were nicely observed through the scope. A single young Chamois was seen much closer behind those at the tail-end of the group. Occasional patches of sunshine persuaded a few butterflies to emerge. These were mainly Green-veined Whites and Scotch Argus, but with the occasional Arran Brown for comparison. Shaded Broad-bar was the only moth identified. The flowers certainly deserve a mention. Campanulas were everywhere, while Yellow Wolf's-bane and *Aquilegia transylvanica*, which took the rarity prize, were more spectacular. At the very furthest point of our walk up the gorge, a Peregrine showed well. Also showing well were some darker clouds. We did not dawdle on the way back to the bus, but for the last kilometre, it bucketed down and we were very wet by the time we reached the bus...and the rain had stopped!

The timing was not too bad as we went immediately back to the Pension for our cooked lunch and any clothes changes needed. Then we took the sandwiches we had prepared at breakfast out of the fridge and picked up fruit ready for our bear-watching evening. Before that excursion, there was time for a foray into the foothills near Calin. Distant Tree Pipits provided scant reward for the steady climb, but once at the tree-line, Crested Tit and eventually a good view of Nutcracker justified the effort. Another excellent view of Dryad butterfly and some Wood Whites added to the walk.

However, we had a scheduled meeting with the ranger who took us way up the valley of Barsa Fieruli. When the bus stopped, the scenic views here were spectacular, but certainly eclipsed as we walked up the tricky track to the

bear hide itself. As we approached, we were surprised to find another group leaving, obviously very satisfied with their visit. Once in the hide we saw why: a female European Brown Bear with a cub were fully on view and engaged in getting at whatever treat had been put out for them. They disappeared, to be replaced by a large male, who had presumably spooked them. A second male appeared and there was a brief and noisy fight. A Red Fox sniffed around the area but kept at least a short distance from the male which remained. Another male appeared later and lastly a different female with a cub. What an action-packed evening! Given it was so early, the photo opportunities were superb, and we were able to eventually descend, in full daylight, and return to our Pension where celebratory beer and wine awaited us.

## Day 4

Tuesday 8th August

Light rain for early part of the transfer journey, but sunny later; max 30 °C.

After an early breakfast, we sadly left Elena Pension, en route for Tulcea, in light drizzle which gradually eased and became just misty. Apart from a few large flocks of Rooks and Starlings and a few White Storks, there was little of note until we pulled in for petrol and a comfort stop. Crested Larks were the highlight here. Not long after, it became sunny and, by the time we reached Lake Rodaneau, heat haze was more of a problem. Most birds were quite distant, but some Great White Pelicans and Garganey were good to see. Three Black-necked Grebes among the hundreds of Coot were rather nearer but still needed scopes to get decent views. A few relatively close Wood Sandpipers and Ruff were just a fraction of the large numbers in the distance, all of which were occasionally disturbed by a couple of Marsh Harriers. Eastern Bath White butterflies abounded here and a single Scarce Swallowtail was spotted laying eggs.

As we approached the River Danube, the birdlife started to proliferate with a few Black Storks (12), and larger numbers of Glossy Ibises (15), Little Egrets, Marsh Harriers and distant terns. A stop was irresistible and five Squacco Herons, seven Pigmy Cormorants, four Greenshanks and some Black-winged Stilts were added to the above. Not far short of our final destination, we stopped at Lake Hasarluc. The fare here was rather similar, but with the addition of two Spoonbills, six or seven Great Egrets and a Little Ringed Plover.

Then we made the relatively short hop to Tulcea, and embarked upon our floating hotel, which was to be towed around the Danube Delta for the next few days. As usual, a glass of brandy welcomed us, and having settled in, we sampled the excellent on-board restaurant for dinner, after which Florin gave us a short briefing on the 'dos' and don'ts' while aboard and a verbal introduction to the Delta. The group could hardly wait until tomorrow.

## Day 5

Wednesday 9th August

A sunny day, 30 °C.

A small gathering of both Common and Whiskered Terns were around the floating hotel as we took an early breakfast in order to get as much birding in before it became too hot. So, we set off in the smaller boat, seated comfortably and with a suitably sized sunshade overhead (also good if it rains!). Having seen a little of the Tulcea waterfront from the main channel, we soon turned off down a much narrower channel and cut the engine. The silent running enabled us to see Redstarts, Spotted Flycatchers, and a single Collared Flycatcher hopping close to the water's edge. There was a gradual increased presence of Kingfishers, which always seemed to be moving ahead of the boat before cameras could be focussed. Then we started to disturb the odd heron...mainly Little

Egrets and Squacco Herons. Suddenly, a flock of at least 100 Glossy Ibises flew over, and everything seemed to kick off as the boat nosed into the entrance of an adjacent lake. There were more herons, including Egrets. We also had many sightings of White-tailed Eagles spooking Pelicans and Garganey, as well as Caspian and Black-headed Gulls and many more terns, some of which mobbed two Red-footed Falcons.

As we cruised gently on, two juvenile Little Bitterns were spotted on the bank. Normally very secretive, one went into reed-like pose while the other continued to hunt frogs...brilliant. Just a little further on, an adult female of the same species was similarly hunting frogs and only flew off when successful. Presumably lower-than-normal water levels were forcing them to emerge from the reeds to hunt. A Muskrat was the next exciting sighting, but instead of the usual five-second sighting, it swam alongside the boat and clambered slowly onto the bank giving amazing views. The butterfly speciality of the Delta, Freyer's Purple Emperor didn't disappoint either: a good many were seen, always looking orange in flight, but a couple were eventually seen at very close range perched on overhanging trees at head height. What a morning, and followed by a cooked lunch on the floating hotel, which had moved to a very different location, moored alongside a reedbed.

On our late afternoon and early evening jaunt, we cruised rather wider channels, which enabled us to see some waders: mainly Black-tailed Godwits, with a few Ruff and Wood Sandpipers and strangely accompanied by Glossy Ibises. However, the real rarities (for the Delta) were a few Oystercatchers! Rollers were regular in the riverside trees and then we were lucky enough to see the second excellent mammal of the day...a Golden Jackal, which simply stood and watched us from a safe distance on the bank. We nosed into another lake which we could not enter because it was a protected area, and anyway, the low water levels and dense aquatic vegetation would have made it impossible. Here we could see the wide range of species we were now used to, but some nice views of Bearded Tits and less good of Penduline Tits were an addition. We took an even bigger channel to return to the floating hotel, accompanied by large numbers of 'Marsh' Terns...mainly Whiskered, but also a few lovely White-winged Blacks. We only seemed to see these on big areas of water.

Then it was back for an excellent dinner (how do they cook this well on this modest 'houseboat?') and drinks and John's birthday cake.

## Day 6

Thursday 10th August

Fine all day; 32 °C max.

Those up early saw a superb male Golden Oriole in a nearby dead tree, with Lesser Spotted Woodpecker briefly in the same tree, several Penduline Tits, and Reed Warblers soaked with condensation, hopping round the reedbed.

After breakfast, and again in the small boat, we turned to the north of the main channel and navigated down increasingly narrow channels towards our destination this morning of the village of Letea, occupied by Ukrainians since the Crimean War. The journey there was breathtaking for birds, with Purple Herons to the fore, Ferruginous Ducks giving closer views than yesterday, Rollers on the channel-side trees, regular views of Penduline Tits, and all of yesterday's major species, frequently crossing our path. Eventually all bushes and trees disappeared and there were only reeds. Having directed the boat straight at part of the reed bed, Florin jumped off ....and didn't sink despite the water depth being four metres. The vast reed beds here are all simply enormous floating islands and Florin explained the mechanism by which these huge 'islands' persist.

Letea itself is on a gigantic sandbank formed hundreds of years ago and is the hottest, and indeed, coldest place in Romania. So the houses have amazingly thick reed roofs to provide all year insulation, while the bottom couple of feet of the walls are constructed so that during the inundation which occurs every few years, the mud and straw simply wash away, but as soon as the floods subside, they can be easily repaired. A Hoopoe flew off as we were disembarking, one of three we saw here. As we walked along the channel bank, Large Copper butterflies were easy to see. A Woodpecker, almost certainly Syrian (they like villages) could not be identified with certainty as it flew away. We also made a decent input to the local economy at the shanty pub/shop.

Hardly had we set off in our boat when at least six Red-footed Falcons and a couple of Hobbies were in a nearby tree. The journey back was similarly punctuated by lovely birds and we met the floating hotel at the most westerly point of our Delta adventure, which now included a pre-lunch swim for most of the group, during which Michael captured a Red Underwing moth in one of Andy's watertight collecting pots! After lunch we were towed to yet another stop-over. The two-hour journey gave the opportunity for a snooze or much excellent birding along the way, including lots more 'Marsh' Terns.

We left in the small boat at around 4pm for a trip through small channels connecting larger lakes. On one of the latter, many Whiskered Terns were accompanied by a few Black Terns and some White-winged Blacks. We got more close-ups of Great White Pelicans, but large flocks of these, no doubt disturbed by yet more White-tailed Eagles, were more distant. After a couple of sightings by just one or two of the group, we all managed to see a couple of Little Crakes. These tiny birds initially and characteristically dashed off as soon as the boat appeared, but by cutting the engine and the group staying silent, they re-emerged from the reed beds. The vegetation was still a problem, with such low water levels, as we carefully navigated our way through the Water-chestnut and Water-soldier. Thousands of frogs provided food for the hundreds of Squacco and other Herons. The Frogs were very attracted to a coke bottle top on a string which had many of them leaping in the air as it swung tantalizingly over the water surface. Eventually we managed to get through a very shallow channel and made our way back to the 'mother ship' which had of course moved on to a new location. The evening light made a glorious end to our birding day, but then there was dinner.

We put up a rudimentary moth-attracting set-up on the top deck, which was inspected at around midnight.

## Day 7

Friday 11th August

Sunny; 25 °C rising to 36 °C.

A dawn inspection of the moth light added little to last night's list, and only resulted in many insect bites! Reed Leopards, Obscure Wainscot, Poplar Lappet and Beautiful Marsh Belle were the pick of a small number of moths potted for more general viewing over breakfast. We were parked against the reeds, and from the top deck, the early risers added Mink to the mammal list and Savi's Warbler to the bird list. Looking across the short stretch of water, we could see Squacco Herons hunting the lily pads, and a couple of White Pelicans attempted to rob a fisherman's net. We could then take breakfast watching this from a lower level through the large windows kept beautifully clean early every morning.

As usual, we took the small boat mainly down narrow channels and naturally, most of the many, many birds were the same species as on previous days. However, this was definitely Night Heron alley. More Little Bitterns crossed in front of us and a flock of at least eight Penduline Tits appeared briefly in the reed tops before passing

over the boat to the other side of the channel. Another Little Crane was seen well. We would surely not have seen this species at all with higher water levels. Crossing Lake Furtuna, we saw many more Garganey, Whiskered Terns and Pelicans, including two nice examples of the much scarcer Dalmatian Pelican. A very large, pale-foliaged, solitary tree seemed dotted with fruit at a distance, but as we got closer, they proved to be large numbers of Pygmy Cormorants. Just before returning to the boat, we had our best-yet view of Golden Oriole. A pre-lunch swim was only taken up by a smaller group who had to stay closer to the floating hotel in this channel.

After lunch we were towed back towards Tulcea. It was too hot for consistent top-deck birding. Initially, White-tailed Eagle, Roller and Golden Oriole put in appearance, but then even the birds seemed to find shade a more acceptable option. After about a four-hour trip we were safely moored back in Tulcea, but before dinner, thanks and plaudits were heaped upon the crew of both boats and the catering staff. The food had been excellent and the table decorations of napkin origami quite marvellous.

## Day 8

Saturday 12th August

Hot and sunny; 38 °C in early afternoon.

We were all packed before our final breakfast on the floating hotel, which was as good as ever. Then, we set for our day's birding in the bus, leaving our major luggage to be taken to our Ibis guesthouse.

Our first stop, near Parches gave us an opportunity for a panoramic view of the Delta floodplain and nearby Ukraine from some sparsely vegetated hills. While distant views could be had of many of the wildfowl and heron species to which we had become accustomed, there was insect life at closer range, including False Grayling and Tufted Marbled Skipper butterflies and Bordered Straw moth. We were very conscious of the potential heat, and had adapted our itinerary appropriately, stopping next at Celicdere, where there were plenty of opportunities to birdwatch from the shade and where, from the outset, Woodpeckers abounded. We saw five species in all, with excellent views of Middle Spotted and Syrian, which we had seen only in flight previously. On the lofty thistles at the edge of the village, several Cardinal Fritillary and Queen of Spain Fritillary butterflies held court. The obvious bird species here was Hawfinch, which flew over repeatedly, and occasionally perched in the tree tops. We saw at least a dozen well. Two Honey Buzzards and a Long-legged Buzzard entertained the raptor watchers.

We then made a slightly longer journey to the Macin Mountains National Park and stopped in the shade for our picnic, which was simply brilliant with the deep-fried mushrooms combining so well with the slightly salty cheese and wonderful tomatoes. It was frequently interrupted...by Bee-eaters and Red-rumped Swallows flying to and fro, by three Praying Mantises and a Spur-thighed Tortoise and several butterflies, including Eastern Short-tailed Blue and Lesser Spotted Fritillary. Eventually we took a walk up the Anton Suluk Valley. The birds, no doubt hiding from the heat, were frankly disappointing, but the butterflies were entertaining as was a Wasp Spider, which was new to many of the group, though it does occur in southern England. We took a short drive through Greci, where we enjoyed ice creams to help compensate for the heat! On leaving the village through steppe alongside the mountains, we immediately started seeing Lesser Grey Shrikes, then the first Isabelline Wheatears. As we moved further on, the latter increased in number giving lovely views and the much-wanted delightful Ground Squirrels or Susliks started to appear...everywhere. Three Woodchat Shrikes and a small flock of Woodlarks seeking shade prompted a further stop before we again parked under some trees to watch the Susliks and Wheatears and scan, unsuccessfully, for Stone-curlews. Here Simon drew the attention of those keenest on butterflies to one perched on the side of one of the trees. It was a Lattice Brown and the subject of much

jubilation. Indeed, there were certainly two, possibly three, all females and busy laying eggs in the cracks in the bark of the trees, which is presumably why they were so approachable.

We then made the fairly long drive back to Tulcea directly and our now-expected plum brandy welcome in our new guest-house. More effort had gone into the table decorations, just as had been the case on the floating hotel, and the service was again delightful. The dinner was also pretty good! We looked forward to seeing the Black Sea tomorrow.

## Day 9

Sunday 13th August

Sunny, 36 °C.

With another hot day in prospect, we re-jigged the programme again. We left earlier than usual, and after thirty minutes, we were at the foot of Deniz Tepe. This is often a good spot for raptors, but our only exciting encounter was a very frustrating one. We were still in the bus when a falcon tried to take a Starling in a swirling chase. It was less than 100 metres away at one time. While the plumage features all pointed to Saker, it gave the impression of being too small, and being in the bus no-one got lengthy views. By the time we had disembarked, we knew not where it had gone. More consistent were a few adult and juvenile Lesser Grey Shrikes, and, in total, around 10 Tawny Pipits.

Our second stop was at Grindul Lupilor where we had initially distant views of large numbers of waders with a few herons and very large numbers of terns and gulls. Most of the group went down a track for much closer views, eventually enjoying a dozen Collared Pratincoles, 25 Marsh Sandpipers, Avocets and many Little and Mediterranean Gulls. Scopes were then set aside so that up to six Paddyfield Warblers could be seen skulking in the reed-beds. We found sufficient shade at the edge of a roadside copse with its own shrine for another excellent picnic lunch. Some of the Sparrows here seemed to show features of both House and Spanish.

Our third stop of the day was at Nuntasi Lake where conditions permitted easier access and closer views of some of the same species, if in lower numbers, as at Grindul Lupilor. White-winged Black Terns mingled with Little Gulls on the mud. A juvenile Collared Pratincole begged food from one of its parents. Two Temminck's Stints, a Kentish Plover and a Spoonbill were excellent additions to the day's birds. Since the temperature was still high, we headed for the Black Sea. Near the last village, Vadu, we had views over distant wader-filled lagoons, but no new species seemed in evidence so we set off on the fairly short distance along a bumpy track to the coast. The breeze at the coast was very welcome and much paddling was enjoyed. Several of the party swam in the warm Black Sea water and even a few birds were seen; particularly two Arctic Skuas and about 20 Sandwich Terns. However, we eventually had to leave, and set off on the lengthy drive back to Tulcea and a superb last evening meal with a number of farewell tributes.

## Day 10

Monday 14th August

Much cooler after overnight rain; cloudy and breezy for much of the journey... 24 °C max.

After the usual splendid breakfast and settling of bills, we set out at 9am on the longish transfer to Bucharest airport. We made a couple of birding stops near Garliciu, after about an hour's travelling. A couple of coats were donned in the strong breeze, but fairly distant views of 20 Glossy Ibis and a similarly sized flock of Greylags

were nice. There were a few Ruff in evidence with a white male very easy to pick out. A couple of Snipe in flight were the only other species of note. Particularly in the first third of the journey, small numbers of some of the more 'exotic' species were seen from the bus, including Marsh Harriers, Rollers and Red-footed Falcons. A flock of 40 White Storks in one field provided further evidence that the movement south of this species had started. However, this is essentially a travelling as opposed to a birding day.

We had a very smooth subsequent journey across country punctuated only by a comfort stop near Slobosia. Nonetheless, two Syrian woodpeckers and a flock of Bee-eaters made it a very pleasant stop indeed. Despite a long hold-up at a railway crossing at Drajoza, and serious traffic problems on the ring-road around Bucharest, we were successfully navigated through the suburbs to arrive at the airport on time, where we left our Romanian guide, Florin, who had done an absolutely terrific job. The rebuilt Henri Coanda airport provided an airy and cool environment before the flight to Heathrow, the luggage carousel and sad farewells.

This was a splendid group, considerably enhanced by the range of interests, indeed expertise, across the group. Everybody contributed and we all learned so much from one another. The great good humour, which was still evident in a variety of quite extreme weather conditions, was as important as the habitats and creatures we saw, in making it so enjoyable.

Thank you all.

## 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](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.

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



White-winged Terns and Little Gulls

## Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				50	100	✓				
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓						
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	12			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Mareca clypeata</i>									5	
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				25	200	✓	✓		✓	
7	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓			3			
8	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				20					12	
9	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					100	✓	✓		12	
10	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>				h						
11	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					1					
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		4	
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		6	
14	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				3						
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				15	2		3	1		
16	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	3	88	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	40
17	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				30	200	✓	✓	1		✓
18	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				2					4	
19	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					3	4	6			
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					30	✓	✓	✓		
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	200		
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
23	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				2	12	30	✓		2	
24	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
27	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					1	1		1	2	
28	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				12	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	
29	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
30	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		3	1				1		2		
31	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				1						1	
32	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		3		1						1	
33	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				1					1		
34	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>				1							
35	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1							1		
36	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	1			✓	5	10	3	2	✓	✓	
37	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>				2							
38	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				1	10	4	4	1	2		
39	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								2	1		
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		1		2	1			2	1		
41	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					2	2	1				
42	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
43	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓		4	✓	✓			
44	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					8	1					
45	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓	8		4		✓		
46	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				5						5	
47	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
48	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				1						2	
49	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandinus</i>										2	
50	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				2	8		2			3	
51	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				3	25	4	2		✓		
52	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					5		2			12	
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>										2	
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>										25	
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				4	5	2					
56	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				1	5	2	2			2	
57	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓	5	✓		✓		
58	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1	2					1	
59	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>										2	
60	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>										2	
61	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				✓	6		6		✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
62	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>										12	
63	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>										2	
64	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>										✓	
66	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>										✓	
67	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	100			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
68	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>										8	
69	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						2	3	1		2	
70	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>										20	
71	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
73	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						✓	10	10		200	
74	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				✓	✓	4					
75	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
76	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>						1					
77	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	2	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
78	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				4						1	
79	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				1	3	2	1				
81	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		4									
82	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓							
83	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				6	20	15			8	10	3
84	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	✓	✓				
85	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
86	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				1	1	3			1	2	
87	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>					1				1		
88	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		1				h	1		1		
89	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>									2	1	2
90	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		2				2	2		1		
91	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1									
92	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		1				1	1				
93	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		1	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	August									
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
94	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					3	10			1	2
95	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				2	6	✓	✓	2	8	
96	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>									1	
97	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			1							
98	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>								4		
100	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		7								
101	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				4				6	12	
102	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		2			✓	4	2	2		
103	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓							
104	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
105	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>			6							
106	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>				✓				✓	✓	
107	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		80		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
108	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
109	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		11	4							
110	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓							
111	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			1							
112	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓							
113	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			h							
114	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
115	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓				1			
116	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2	10	15			
117	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					3	2	h			
118	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			4					6		
119	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>									1	
120	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			3					2		
121	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				2			15			
122	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
123	Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	25		✓							
124	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
125	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								10		

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
126	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		5				12	15	10			
127	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						h		1			
128	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	1								
129	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>						3		1			
130	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				1							
131	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>										6	
132	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				1	10	✓	✓	1	✓		
133	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>								1			
134	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		3	1								
135	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		2						1		1	
136	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			3								
137	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓						1		
138	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	1								3		
140	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		10									
141	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>									1		
142	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			1								
143	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		3	3			8		3	1		
144	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	2								
145	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>						h					
146	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>						1					
147	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	3	3	✓	✓			1				
148	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1				5					
149	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>										6	
150	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									10		
151	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
152	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				✓							
153	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓	1	
154	Yellow' Wagtail sp	<i>Motacilla flava spp</i>				✓	✓	✓			2	✓	
155	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		2	✓			1					
156	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
157	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>										10	

	Common name	Scientific name	August										
			5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
158	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			2								
159	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓		
160	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>									15		
161	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>				h					1		
162	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		
163	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		1									
164	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							1				
165	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1	2								
166	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						1	3	1		2	

### Mammals

European Brown Bear

Golden Jackal

Red Squirrel

Red Fox

European Hare

Chamois

Mink (presumed American)

Muskrat

Souslik

Wild Boar

Harbour Porpoise

### Reptiles & Amphibians

Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog

Grass Snake

Eastern Green Lizard

Spur-thighed Tortise

Balkan Whip Snake

### Macro Moths

Reed Leopard

Poplar Lappet

Rest Harrow

*Lythria purpuraria*

Beautiful Marsh Belle

Shaded Broad-bar

Latticed Heath

Hummingbird Hawk-moth

Cream-spot Tiger

Clouded Buff

Ruby Tiger

Shark

Obscure Wainscot

Bordered Straw

Spotted Suphur

Silver Y

Red Underwing

### Micro Moths

Ringed China-mark

Common Purple and Gold

Other invertebrates

Praying mantis

Wasp Spider

Slant-nosed Grasshopper

Violet Carpenter Bee

Great Green Bush Cricket

Hornet

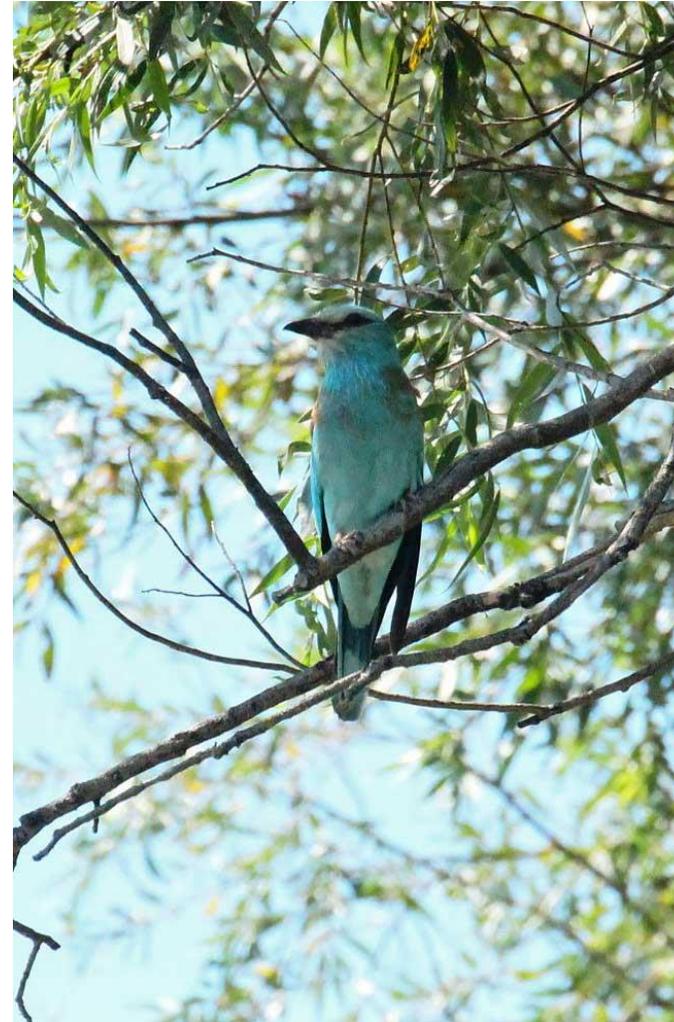
Blue-winged Grasshopper

Cicada

Red-winged Grasshopper



Purple Heron



European Roller