

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

9 -18 September 2017



Purple Heron with Marsh Frog



Raccoon Dog



Dalmatian Pelican



Western Osprey

Report compiled by Jason Mitchell
Images courtesy of Roger Stewart



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Day 1

Saturday 9th September

After a flight from the UK, the group were met by Laurentiu and Jason at Bucharest airport. With luggage safely stowed, we drove north across the plains to Ploiesti and then north-west into the mountains. We arrived at our comfortable guest house in the small Transylvanian town of Zarnesti in time to enjoy a glass of 'Dracula's tears', compliments of our wonderful hosts, Gigi and Elena. After finding our rooms, we settled down to enjoy the first of many wonderful meals together.

Day 2

Sunday 10th September

Our first morning was spent enjoying the splendour of the Zarnesti Gorge, a breath-taking location used in several Hollywood feature films. Leading to the gorge, a small stream was graced by a Grey Wagtail and a Dipper flashed by. Coal and Marsh Tits called frequently from deep within the emerald green foliage and it was not long before we heard the distinctive, nasal calls of Willow Tit. Further on, a high-flying Common Buzzard had us peering skywards, an action we would repeat many times with Jays and Nutcrackers frequently flying across the gorge. A party of Bullfinches 'piped' from a small clearing and a Hawfinch gave itself away by its thin, flight call overhead. Suddenly the cries of a Grey-headed Woodpecker echoed around the woodland, but it frustrated us by staying hidden from sight. Another noisy species, the Nutcracker, eventually treated us to close views as we sat eating our picnic lunch in the sun. Returning to the bus, we now enjoyed warmer temperatures; the sun was high in the sky and its heat poured into the gorge, bringing dozens of butterflies and dragonflies to life.

Moving on, we arrived at a local beauty spot which boasts breath-taking views of the surrounding Carpathian landscape. Several House Martins caught insects on the breeze and were joined by a Common Buzzard, while a juvenile Red-backed Shrike skulked in bushes. Butterflies were numerous, with a Bath White the pick of the bunch and a Wartbiter cricket was viewed by some.

Our next destination was Castle Bran, the reputed former abode of Vlad the Impaler, where most of us spent a couple of hours exploring the castle and grounds. Others found time for afternoon tea and a short walk before returning to the bus, but not before adding Fieldfare to the tour list having seen a small flock in nearby orchards. Satisfied by the day's events, we returned to Zarnesti for another hearty meal.

Day 3

Monday 11th September

Today was again sunny, with the temperature rising to 25°C. Following breakfast, a short drive found us in the Piatra Craiului National Park. We parked in view of the towering limestone ridge and on leaving the minibus we began walking to the base of the slope. It was not long before we heard the metallic, Jay-like call of a Nutcracker and moments later it came into view, flapping on broad wings and showing off a white-tipped tail and vent. The species spends much of its time within the conifer forest but in the autumn is often tempted from cover by the hazelnut crop. A Red-backed Shrike was seen on its bush-top lookout in search of prey and, on scanning the slopes, several others were found guarding their own patch of scrub along with two stunning Great Grey Shrikes. A pair of Kestrels were active in the area and Chiffchaff was the commonest warbler, with dozens darting after

clouds of flies. A large, barrel-chested bird of prey flew across the valley and following some debate was duly identified as a Goshawk.

Butterflies were numerous, with at least two species of Clouded Yellow on the wing; this is a tricky family to identify and in the absence of a net we could only guess at their precise identification, with Berger's and 'common' Clouded Yellow being the most likely candidates. Some juvenile Green Lizards darted around leaf litter and later, a smart male Sand Lizard was a popular find, especially as it happily posed for photographs. On our way back to the bus we enjoyed close views of a Crested Tit, and even closer views of a fine Yellow-bellied Toad which had been found in a wheel rut!

Returning to the guest house, we were treated to a three-course lunch before heading out once more, this time to the Stramba Valley. Parked up, we inspected some footprints in soft mud by a stream which had us debating who had made them, and by chance, a while later a mink was glimpsed from the bus before quickly disappearing into cover – mystery solved! Red-backed Shrikes were ever-present and the much hoped-for breeding pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles showed as they soared over distant trees. With folk wondering how the guides could be so confident of their exact identification, luckily both eagles reappeared a few hundred metres away, showing all the salient plumage features.

Leaving the lower slopes behind, we headed further up the valley to our evening destination; a hide where we hoped to observe Brown Bears. On meeting the warden, we quietly made our way to the hide which overlooks a large woodland clearing. Already, five Brown Bears were present and were searching for food which had been hidden in various logs and trunks. During the next hour and a half we had the privilege of viewing several individuals, and the 'icing on the cake' came towards the end when a mother and cub arrived. A number of bird species were present as well, with twelve Ravens vying for scraps, both Grey and White Wagtails and most surprisingly, a Lesser Spotted Eagle which was also on the look-out for some free food. Leaving the reserve, we headed home feeling most privileged by what we had witnessed. But there was more to come, as at the edge of the forest a Ural Owl flew across the track, quickly slipping into the darkness; this much sought after illusive species rounded the day off nicely.

Day 4

Tuesday 12th September

Bidding farewell to our hosts in Zarnesti, we left the mountains for the Danube Delta via Ploiesti. Our route took us across the open plains fairly close to Bucharest then east towards Tulcea. On this occasion there was little evidence of raptor migration with relatively few birds seen other than our first Steppe Buzzard and a few Marsh Harriers, but a couple of Crested Larks during our first refreshment break was pleasing.

Following coffee, we stopped by the shore of a lake which was dotted with wildfowl. Both Mallard and Shoveler were common along with a few Teal, but a fly-by flock of Ferruginous Ducks created the most interest. The resident pair of Marsh Harriers quartered the reeds and a dashing Hobby hawked for dragonflies, which were present in very good numbers. Soon after leaving, a 'ringtail' harrier briefly flew alongside the bus, with various features suggesting it was a female-type Montagu's Harrier.

After lunch we stopped at Lake Hasar, which was alive with a wide variety of water birds. Here we welcomed our first views of Pygmy Cormorant and spotted a cryptic, juvenile plumaged Purple Heron skulking in reeds. Ducks

were numerous and included Shoveler, Gadwall and Teal. On the shoreline some confiding Snipe shone in the low sun, highlighting the beauty of their gold-spangled plumage, while both White and Yellow Wagtails picked at the mud for morsels. Two huge raptors in the far distance were easily identified as White-tailed Eagles, and more Marsh Harriers hunted over the reeds. Two Kingfishers were a popular sighting but the day's star species went to the Bee-eater, with a minimum 200 birds passing through in three flocks during our stay of perhaps 40 minutes.

The final leg saw us arrive in Tulcea in time to enjoy an aperitif ahead of a sumptuous dinner aboard the floating hotel, which would be home for the next few days.

Day 5

Wednesday 13th September

Today was to be sunny and even hotter at 30°C. After breakfast we boarded a launch, which allowed us to explore some of the delta's network of smaller waterways. Moments after leaving the main channel, perhaps the most popular sighting of the morning was made: a diminutive Little Bittern; a juvenile with streaked plumage rather similar to its 'great' cousin. With Kingfishers zig-zagging ahead of the boat, we enjoyed views of Little and Great Egrets, many Night Herons and our first Squacco Heron of the trip; a popular species that featured many times during our time on the delta. Raptors were in evidence too, with Marsh Harrier, Hobby and the mighty White-tailed Eagle seen during our first foray. Stopping at the entrance to a protected lake, we searched through the masses of waterbirds in search of scarcer species and were happy to find our first Green and Wood Sandpipers. After some refreshments, we continued on our way and soon saw the first of many large flocks of White Pelican circling on thermals high overhead. Shortly before arriving back at the floating hotel, we spotted a juvenile Purple Heron eyeing up a Muskrat, and another mammal sighting came in the form of three Roe Deer, a species not at all common on the delta.

Birdwatching whilst having lunch on the floating hotel was both novel and productive; we spotted our first Roller, 20 or so Black Terns and a White-tailed Eagle perched in a tree. Heading back out on the smaller vessel, we turned onto the Old Danube Channel. Squacco Herons became increasingly numerous and four perched falcons were almost certainly 'red-foots', but the distance and difficult light prevented a positive identification. Approaching the entrance to Lake Jacob, two Spotted Flycatchers darted around the canopy and a Reed Warbler called from cover. At the lake we were astonished to spot a Raccoon Dog searching for food just metres from the boat; we all fell silent and soaked-up amazing views of this usually nocturnal and secretive animal. Another hard-to-see species, the Little Crake, was also seen feeding in full view for the whole 20 minutes of our stay. The distinctive calls of a sizeable flock of Wood Sandpipers rang around the lake with an estimated 60+ individuals involved, and larger still was a group of a hundred Greylag Geese.

Returning to base, two large flights of migrating Purple Herons totalled around 70 birds. Set against a burnt-orange sunset, it was the perfect way to finish off our first day on the Danube Delta.

Day 6

Thursday 14th September

Once more we awoke to cloudless skies and while gathered on deck ahead of breakfast a mammal was seen swimming in the river, yet nobody could quite believe its identity - a Raccoon Dog - our second in as many days! Leaving the floating hotel behind, we decided to return to Lake Jacob having enjoyed such a bounty of wildlife the evening before, but even before the floating hotel was out of site, a Black Woodpecker was spotted in

riverside willows. During five minutes we enjoyed fantastic views of this impressive and sought-after species. Moving on, several Hobby were seen hawking high overhead and we frequently encountered Kingfishers as they darted ahead of the boat, especially along smaller channels.

Reaching Lake Jacob, we could hear the repetitive 'pinging' call of a Bearded Reedling (Tit) and were delighted when an exquisite male appeared at the edge of the reeds. Leaving the lake behind, we were pleased to see a number of wader species dotted along the shore, including various shanks and sandpipers, several Black-tailed Godwits and our first Little Ringed Plover of the tour.

It was decided it would be good to stretch our legs, so we set about a short walk along the edge of a bird reserve. We immediately caught sight of a small warbler in bushes which eventually gave itself up as an Icterine Warbler. During the following hour, several other members of this tricky family were identified including Lesser Whitethroat and Garden Warbler. A flowery corner held several species of butterfly, ranging from the very common, Common Blue to the bright orange (male) Clouded Yellow. In the same area a Spotted Flycatcher hovered around a bush, no doubt 'snacking' on the abundant butterflies. A tower hide gave excellent views over a lagoon which was graced by a Black-winged Stilt and a Spotted Redshank.

Returning to the boat, we retraced our 'steps' back to the floating hotel in good time for lunch. En route a similar list of bird species was noted but we did add a young Wild Boar to the day's sightings, along with a Roller which flew across the river just metres off the bow.

The first part of the afternoon was spent birdwatching from the 'floatel' as we made progress along some larger channels. From our elevated vantage point we saw several more Rollers, two magnificent Ospreys and four Caspian Terns; an impressively large tern, approaching a Herring Gull in size and with a large, 'carrot-like' beak.

Having reached our mooring spot for the night, we re-boarded the smaller launch to explore the Eracle Channel and some of its off-shoots. Setting out, a gathering of Garganey in cryptic 'eclipse' plumage loafed nearby and, as ever, herons were well represented. Squacco Herons numbered in their dozens and Night Herons seemed to erupt from ever willow thicket we passed. Possibly the best sighting of the day was of our first Dalmatian Pelican, which took off from the water and completed a full circuit of the boat, giving everybody a wonderful opportunity to witness one of Europe's heaviest birds in flight. The day was then finished off very nicely by a fly-over Osprey which was carrying a freshwater mussel in-lieu of a fish supper. Back at the floating hotel the same bird had perched in a dead tree and we watched as the late afternoon sun coloured it pink.

Day 7

Friday 15th September

The day started with most of us enjoying a pre-breakfast birdwatch on the top deck. In lifting mist a juvenile White-tailed Eagle left its tree-top roost, and the reedbed seemed alive with warblers suggesting a huge number of birds were on the move: Chiffchaff were commonest followed by Willow Warbler, and a Reed Bunting was located by its down-slurred whistle before eventually allowing better views out in the open.

Breakfast over, we boarded the smaller boat with a view to exploring the channels and a small lake around the Eracle area. As we approached the lake two Kingfishers seemed to take turns in posing for the cameras, each time darting off when we got too close. From the lake entrance, Caspian Terns dwarfed their more numerous

Whiskered Tern cousins. Later, the 'dreamy' calls of a Penduline Tit alerted us to a juvenile bird feeding at the top of some reeds just metres from the boat. Although lacking the characteristic head markings seen in adults, we were thrilled to see our first of this attractive species. And, as luck would have it, later in the day we caught up with two adult birds sporting smart bandit masks.

Back out on the Old Danube Channel, we headed to a known haunt for Caspian Tern and were not disappointed as we found at least 20 birds resting in amongst a larger flock of gulls. Rising up, they did a short circuit of the boat calling noisily, before alighting once more on the mud. Moving on, we continued through the maze of waterways before reaching Lake Fortuna. Distant Pygmy Cormorants were fishing in large groups and two White Pelicans were seen towards the far bank. As we had come to expect, Squacco Herons, various ducks and Mute Swans were all numerous, the latter especially so with perhaps 60 drifting serenely close to the lake shore. Returning to base a juvenile Hobby made a very close pass, plucking a dragonfly from the air, and moments before the floating hotel came into view, a Kingfisher posed beautifully on a stick just metres from the boat and sat motionless for a good minute allowing for some great photographs to be taken.

After another fine lunch the remainder of the day was a relaxed affair, birdwatching from the top deck as we slowly returned to Tulcea. During the journey, a number of impressive White-tailed Eagles soared high above us, as did several Marsh Harriers and a dashing Hobby. With the town almost in view and rather to our surprise, a trio of Dalmatian Pelicans cruised overhead, having seemingly flown directly over Tulcea!

Day 8

Saturday 16th September

Having thanked the river staff for their excellent service during our time on the Danube Delta, we drove a short way to Denize Tepe (Hill of the Sea), an impressive steppe-land hill which towers over the surrounding flatlands which were once covered by water. On our arrival, a handsome male Red-footed Falcon perched proudly on a telegraph wire and one of the location's specialities, a Long-legged Buzzard, glided low overhead revealing its distinctive rusty-coloured tail. On leaving the bus we were suddenly surrounded by Montagu's Harriers; at least five of these graceful raptors were feeding in the area, probably 'fuelling-up' during their long migration south. One particular juvenile hunted less than 100 metres away for the entire period of our stay, allowing us to observe a great rarity in UK terms, but without the need to fight our way through an admiring crowd! Other birds of prey were noted, including many Kestrels, Marsh Harriers, more Long-legged Buzzards and a distant Lesser Spotted Eagle. Returning to the main road a Little Owl glared from the top of a telegraph pole, and shortly after leaving the site, a juvenile Honey Buzzard glided low over the bus.

A stroll over a scrubby slope at the edge of Babadag was aimed at seeing reptiles and although we failed to find a tortoise we did see several wall lizards and plenty of butterflies, the best of which was the large and striking Great Banded Grayling. A mature female Praying Mantis was another popular find, making a fine photographic subject. But the location will be best remembered for a close encounter with the 'Beast of Babadag' – a large and colourful rubber lizard 'planted' to confound the guides!

After a welcome comfort break, we drove to a shady copse where a small chapel nestles at the edge of a False Acacia plantation. A number of warblers were spied feeding amongst trees where Spanish Sparrows' nests had been abandoned just a few weeks earlier; two Lesser Whitethroats kept the photographers on their toes, a Willow

Warbler showed briefly and a female-type Common Restart skulked in low vegetation. Little else moved within the dense tree cover but dozens of Southern Darter dragonflies rested along a fence.

Another short drive was interrupted to allow views of a hundred or more elegant Mediterranean Gulls feeding on a newly ploughed field, accompanied by the odd Black-headed Gull. Continuing our journey, we arrived at the commune of Vadu, where we looked down on a lagoon and with the aid of a telescope it was possible to pick out many dozens of waders made up of several species: Ruff, Avocet and Curlew Sandpiper were good for starters but there were some rarer species on offer. Swimming on the water, four Red-necked Phalaropes gracefully picked small insect prey from the surface; all were juveniles with attractive ochrous stripes on their backs. Along the shoreline a very small wader with yellowish legs proved to be a Temminck's Stint, yet another new species for many. Terns were plentifully and with care we found two Black Terns and a Gull-billed Tern, while over a dozen Little Gulls mingled with their larger cousins. But, there was more to come, as suddenly from nowhere, a large raptor flew on a line directly towards us and with an improving angle was identified as a Booted Eagle, seconds later a Hobby made a close mock-attack. During the minute that followed, the Hobby continued to wage war but the eagle flapped lazily off into the distance on the same steady course.

Arriving on the shore of the Black Sea, a number of us took the opportunity for a cooling dip while others scanned the beach and sea for wildlife. The amazing weather had brought the locals out in force, sadly to the detriment of the birds which often feed on the shoreline, however, several gulls and cormorants fished nearby. Just before leaving, a small group of Harbour Porpoises were spotted just off-shore and it was something of a highlight to admire the behaviour of this exciting endemic subspecies of the Black Sea. With a drive of an hour or more ahead of us, we made brief stop at a local shop for refreshments before heading to the small hotel that would be home for the next two nights.

Day 9

Sunday 17th September

Today was to be sunny again, and even hotter at 31°C. Our first stop of the day was at a large woodland adjacent to a monastery known as Cilic Dere, where we were immediately greeted by a Syrian Woodpecker that flew across the car park and landed in a tree! Moments later a Hawfinch passed overhead, although views were brief. We eventually saw dozens flying around a large glade with everyone eventually making contact with this usually elusive species. The site is well known for its diverse woodpecker fauna and we weren't to be disappointed as the air was full of the calls of at least four species. Our patience was soon rewarded with fantastic, close-up views of a Middle Spotted Woodpecker feeding quietly in a Walnut tree just above our heads. Moving to an orchard at the edge of the woodland, we had excellent views of a Sombre Tit which fed actively in small trees, occasionally giving its buzzing call. There was also evidence of some light raptor passage migration during the morning, with a Lesser Spotted Eagle, three Booted Eagles and a Common Buzzard all seen passing through. Other interest came in the form of butterflies, with a total of four fritillary species identified: Silver-washed, Queen of Spain, Knapweed and the large and impressive Cardinal, the latter being especially numerous. On our way back to the bus, a Whinchat balanced at the top of a standing crop for several minutes, giving us time to find it in the telescope and appreciate the beauty of its subtle plumage pattern and tone.

Our next destination was the Muntii Macinului National Park, just west of Machin town. While enjoying our picnic we were entertained by a mix of warblers and flycatchers feeding actively in surrounding trees. Replete, we set about a short, if occasionally steep, walk into the Machin Hills. A drying puddle hosted some small, dark

Marsh Frogs and a Praying Mantis was spied close-by. In very hot conditions, a number of the group decided to find some shade and wait for the rest of us to retrace our steps. On one occasion, whilst sheltering from the sun, we were joined by half a dozen Red-veined Darter dragonflies and on another by a Red-breasted Flycatcher. Reaching a high point, we were able to enjoy impressive views of the surrounding countryside, particularly the contrast between the rugged hills and the plains below. The area can be very good for raptor passage but the afternoon was quiet with just a few Kestrels and a single Steppe Buzzard seen. Returning, a cool, damp part of the track with luxuriant vegetation hosted dozens of butterflies; Brown Argus, Common Blue and Small Copper were familiar to most but a Lesser Fiery Copper was both a new and exciting find for everyone. Towards the end of the walk, one area was particularly active with wall lizards and a Common Tree Frog was spotted cooling off in a small stream.

Reluctantly we boarded the bus and headed back to Tulcea for our final dinner of the tour and to reflect on what had been an amazing holiday, experiencing some of Romania's best wildlife and landscapes.

Day 10

Monday 18th September

Leaving Tulcea behind, we set-off for Bucharest airport producing an impressive list of birds as we went with Black Stork, Lesser Spotted Eagle and Roller being amongst the more interesting.

We arrived at the airport in good time to say our goodbyes and after a smooth flight, the group arrived safely back in the UK a few hours later, where another Naturetrek adventure came to an end

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓	100+	150+				
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>				✓			✓	✓		
4	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>				✓	✓			✓		
6	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				✓						
7	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					2	6		✓		
8	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓						
10	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				30+	100+	100+	30	2		
11	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					6			✓		
12	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓	✓				10+	
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓			3	6		
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				3	2	2	2			
15	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>				50+				1		
16	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>							1			
17	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					2	1				
18	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					50+	✓	✓			
19	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				1	60+	✓	✓			
20	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
21	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1	80+	3		1		
22	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				10+	✓	✓	✓	✓		
24	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					200+	150+	70+	100+		
25	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>						1	3	2		
26	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				10+	50+	6	100+			
27	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
28	Western Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>						2	3		1	
29	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>								1juv		

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
30	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			3		1		1	1	1	
31	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								1	3	
32	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1		2				1	
33	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			1							
34	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				10+	10+	20+	30+	30+	5	
35	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				1						
36	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				2	1			6		
37	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				2	8	1	4	4		
38	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>								1		
39	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				2						
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓			1			3	
41	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					1juv					
42	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
43	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
44	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						3				
45	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>								1		
46	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
47	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						2		4		
48	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
49	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>					50+	6	20+			
50	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					40+	1				
51	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>					3	10	4	2		
52	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					2	1	1	1		
53	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				H	70+	4		6		
54	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					3	1	1	1		
55	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								1		
56	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								1		
57	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>						2		30+		
58	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
59	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>								20		
60	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>								100+		
61	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September										
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
62	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									1		
63	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>							10	30+			
64	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓			2	4	1		
65	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					20+	40+	✓	✓			
66	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>									4		
67	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					20+				2		
68	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	
69	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>								6			
70	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
72	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>						H					
73	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>			1								
74	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>									1		
75	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>									1		
76	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				2	1	5	3				
77	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				1	10+	20+	10+				
78	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				200+	50+	100+	80+	100+	H		
79	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>									1		
80	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>								H		6	
81	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					4						
82	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>										4	
83	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		H	1		H		✓			6	
84	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						2					
85	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			2							H	
86	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		H			3		H			1	
87	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					c.4				2		
89	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				2	15+	10+	15+	3	2		
90	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1	6	2	6	2	2	30+	10+		
91	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>			2								
92	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>					4		1	1			
93	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓							✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	September									
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
94	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
95	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		10+	30+							
96	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
97	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
99	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	40+		20+							
100	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓	✓							
101	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			2							
102	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								H	4	
103	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓						1	
104	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		H								
105	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
106	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
107	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						8				
108	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					20+	H				
109	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				2						
110	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓			✓	✓		
111	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
112	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
113	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									1	
114	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		H			✓	✓	✓			
115	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							2	1	2	
116	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
117	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				1		1				
118	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					1					
119	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H					
120	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>						1				
121	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						1+				
122	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓							2	
123	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						1				
124	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						1		2		
125	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H	1							

	Common name	Scientific name	September										
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
126	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓							4	
127	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>		H									
128	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
129	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓		
130	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		20+	6								
131	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					3	1				6	
132	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		2									
133	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>										1	
134	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓									
135	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					4	1		1			
136	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			2					2	1		
137	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>								1			
138	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		3+									
139	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
140	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				✓	✓	✓					
141	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		H									
142	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		✓	✓		1	✓	20+				
143	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓								
144	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			6				H	H			
146	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓					✓	
147	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		H								50+	
148	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		3	1								
149	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>										2	
150	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>						2				2	
151	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			2								
152	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				H			1				

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>					3						
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			9								
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>								D			

	Common name	Scientific name	September										
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	1										
5	Musk Rat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>					3		1				
6	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>						1					
7	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>								2			
8	Mink sp.				1								
9	Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>					1	1					

Amphibians & Reptiles

Agile Frog, *Rana dalmatina*

Yellow bellied Toad, *Bombina variegata*

Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog, *Pelophylax sp*

European Tree Frog, *Hyla arborea*

Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix persa*

Eastern Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis*

Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podarcis tauricus*

Sand Lizard, *Lacerta agilis*

Butterflies

Small White

Large White

Green-veined White

Eastern Bath White

Small Heath

European Swallowtail

Red Admiral

Painted Lady

Small Tortoiseshell

Cardinal

Adonis Blue

Common Blue

Brown Argus

Lesser Firey Copper

Small Copper

Scotch Argus

Water Ringlet

Brimstone

Weaver's Fritillary

Freyer's Purple Emperor

Great Banded Grayling

Knapweed Fritillary

Queen of Spain

Silver-washed Fritillary

Clouded Yellow sp.

Dragonflies

Migrant Hawker

Common Darter

Ruddy Darter

Willow Spreadwing

Common Blue-tail

Red-veined Darter

Southern Darter