

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

19 – 28 May 2018

Report compiled by Byron Palacios



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Tour Participants: Byron Palacios (leader) with 12 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 19th May

London Heathrow – Bucharest – Zarnesti

Our midday flight departed from Heathrow, arriving in Bucharest on time after a very smooth flight. After collecting our luggage from the belt, we met up our driver and transfer guide at the exit who guided to our minibus out of the busy airport. We started our journey leaving the area of the Romanian capital, heading north into the mountains. We made a stop in the outskirts in order to enjoy of a delicious dinner, before continuing towards the foothills of Brasov, aiming for our final destination, Zarnesti. We had good weather at the start of our journey but then some showers. We arrived at the charming Pension Elena in Zarnesti, where our wonderful hosts Gigi and Elena greeted us with the warmest welcome! In spite of the late arrival, a delicious – but rather strong! – local plum brandy was served to tune everybody up!

We enjoyed this first taste of the wonderful Romania and retired to bed in order to rest and get ready for our first excursion the following day!

Day 2

Sunday 20th May

Piatra Craiului National Park (Coltul Chillilor Monastery) – Bran Castle

Fantastic blue skies and a warming sun took the full frame of our windows this morning. After a delicious breakfast, we made our sandwiches of our choice in order to pack them in our rucksacks for lunch, and as soon as we were ready, we drove a short distance into the Piatra Craiului National Park where a nice valley track took us to an isolated modern monastery at Coltul Chillilor. The walk is a bit steep and hard at the beginning, but we all made a great effort to at least climb to the top of the hill. We had fantastic views of Red-backed Shrikes, the unique Spotted Nutcracker, Garden Warbler, Yellowhammer, Cirl Bunting, Lesser Whitethroat, European Jays, Tree Pipits, Song Thrush and Coal Tits.

We managed to get to the end of the track where this small and modern monastery lies on top of the main gully surrounded by pristine conifers and beech forest, perfect for us to enjoy our packed lunch and active birds such as Nuthatch and Black Redstart; a pair of Red Crossbills flew over the area, while three Northern Ravens and a few European Buzzards were calling while in flight. We then started the descending walk back to the minibus, spotting White Stork, Common Kestrel, Red-backed Shrikes, and interesting Yellow-bellied Toads. Once in the minibus, we took some time to overlook the valley and its contrasting landscape of the snowy-topped mountains while driving to the mystic town of Bran in order to visit its famous Castle, home of the Dracula legend, linked to the Transylvania's Vlad The Impaler. We enjoyed visiting the castle and the surroundings of this lovely little town.

After this, we drove back to our lodge for a little break followed by a delicious dinner!

Day 3

Monday 21st May

Zarnesti Gorges – Valea Stramba (Brown Bear hide)

After a delicious breakfast, we drove a very short distance and back into the Piatra Craiului National Park, this time to the impressive Zarnesti Gorges. We were rapidly engaged with lovely views of Grey and White Wagtails on the way up, also spotting a beautiful White-throated Dipper feeding its juvenile very obligingly on a rock in the roadside stream. We parked our minibus and started our walk uphill towards the gorges, taking a minor detour uphill in order to have a good view of the valley we were about to explore. Many interesting birds such as Red-backed Shrike, Common Redstart, Goldcrest, European Nuthatch and a cooperative Wood Warbler were seen in this first part of our walk.

The weather was overcast and with a thin drizzle at times, so we drove back to our lodge in order to have a delicious lunch and to get ready to our afternoon/evening excursion to the Stramba Valley. We set off from Zarnesti in the early afternoon to the valley of Stramba, where the weather improved dramatically, turning in to a beautiful afternoon! It took around 45 minutes to get there from Zarnesti, followed by a good birding walk we took along the track which produced great birds such as Woodlark, Red-backed Shrike, Common Cuckoo, Eurasian Hoopoe, Yellowhammer, Levant Sparrowhawk, Green, Great Spotted and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, and obliging Collared Flycatchers. We then took our minibus again in order to drive to the forest, making a short stop at the reserve entrance to take a quick walk, which gave us Lesser Grey Shrike, Willow Tit, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers.

Back to the minibus and continuing on the track, the dense and lush forest made obvious the fact that we were already in Brown Bear country. We parked the minibus before the entrance and walk about 100 metres on the track finding several Fire Salamanders along the way. We then arrived at the spot by crossing a little bridge over the river which led us straight to the bear hide. We settled in the comfortable hide very quietly at around 6pm. I was told by the ranger that the bears had been visiting the hide at around 7pm during the last three days, particularly because the weather has been good during these last three afternoons...and he wasn't winding me up! Shortly after we arrived at the hide, a lovely female emerged from the left-hand side of the forest and went straight to the feeding bunks, treating us with wonderful views! But that wasn't going to be the whole show; soon after the female turned up, another female joined her on the feast and for a good quarter of an hour, then they suddenly vanished in the woods as a large male approached to the area. Thinking we had enough, they both came back but so did another four bears, especially one distinctive pale brown individual. We enjoyed six wonderful Brown Bears in the great late afternoon light, what a day! Our cameras burst with photos of one of the highlights of our expedition in Romania...bingo!!

We had a fantastic moment watching these amazing Brown Bears (one individual, perhaps a seventh individual, was even spotted in the woods by some of us walking on the track on the way to the minibus!) but it was time to go back to the minibus and to our hotel to Zarnesti for a well-deserved restful night after another exciting experience. It was a late arrival for a very satisfied group who all went straight to bed!

Day 4

Tuesday 22nd May

Zarnesti to Tulcea

Our last breakfast in Zarnesti was taken at the usual time at the lovely Casa Elena. It was another beautiful sunny morning and we were all ready to take the long drive down to the Danube Delta, leaving the Carpathian Mountains behind. After a grateful farewell to Gigi and Elena at the hotel's main entrance, we set off, heading south-east. The landscapes changed rapidly to the midlands as we were gradually descending from the mountains and along the main road through Ploiesti and Slobovia.

The long journey was split by making several stops along the way, both birding and coffee breaks. One of them was made at the area of Ciorani, where an area of poplars and willow trees right next to the main road hosted a noisy rookery. The spot was interesting and produced new birds such as nesting Common Kestrel, European Bee-eater, Red-footed Falcon and glimpses of a flying male Golden Oriole. A very nice Syrian Woodpecker was spotted on the way back to the minibus; we had the chance to see this scarce European woodpecker well, and it was seen again by the minibus, later on.

We had our lunch on the go back in the minibus, making another birding stop at the Rodeanu lake where we saw Caspian Gulls, Great Reed Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Eurasian Coot, Common Pochard, and a pair of beautiful Black-necked Grebe. Back in the bus, a few European Rollers were spotted along the electric lines, but all went quiet when we hit a very rainy area which looked like a minor transitional storm which soon eased off. Our final stop was around 50 kilometres away from Tulcea, and right at the water arms of the upper Danube basin; the area had been a bit affected by the early spring flooding. The long day's journey finished when we arrived into the Danube-shore town of Tulcea where our floating hotel was waiting for us. First, we thanked our driver very much for driving us everywhere safely, and boarded the hotel where our hosts Liliana and Roxy welcomed us with a local cherry schnapps and biscuits. All the group members were pleasantly surprised by high standard of both the accommodation and dining room of our boat; but the standard of our meal was not a surprise: it was delicious!

We enjoyed our dinner and, after going through our checklist, we retired to bed for a well-deserved rest, looking forward for a fantastic few days down in the Delta.

Day 5

Wednesday 23rd May

Danube Delta (mile 36 & Maliuc - Lake Nebuno - Lake Furtuna) – Old Danube (Lebada to 8th mile)

The early morning noises from the busy Tulcea woke us all up in order to enjoy the views of this small but lively town of the river Danube. We had a delicious early breakfast on this beautiful sunny morning while watching the river, the city and the motorized boats coming up and down from Tulcea's port. Once we were ready to go, we boarded our expedition boat, leaving our floating hotel behind, and started our first day along the Danube from the mile 36, following the fast-flowing current for a good 50 minutes before turning into a side channel which led us to different lagoons and riparian areas to explore. We were able to take advantage of the high level of the water, which made it much easier to do meander along this marvellous water system. Common Kingfishers were flying along the thick willow tree-lined shores, while Pygmy Cormorants were crossing along the channels. The colourful European Rollers shone out at all times. Other lovely birds, including some new ticks for our list, were

Black Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Red-necked Grebe, and a young White-tailed Eagle, still on his nest.

We explored the area of Maliuc, where the Danube National Park's headquarters are based, and we focused mostly on the channel banks and willow forests, where we found a great variety of birds such as Common Redstarts, singing Olivaceous Warblers and Thrush Nightingales, complemented by striking views of European Rollers, more Pygmy Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, Little Egret, and various Squacco Herons discretely hidden amongst the water mints. We made a coffee break stop at the entrance of Lake Nebuno from where we enjoyed watching a pair of White Pelicans, Ferruginous Duck, Hooded Crows, Great Reed Warbler, Tree Sparrow and a few perched Common Cuckoos. Going back to the main channel, a pair of White-tailed Eagles was spotted, and we had great views of at least one of them from our boat.

After drifting down the many channels, we managed to catch up with our floating hotel at the village of Maliuc itself, in order to have lunch while sailing down the river towards the village of Lebada. We took a break after lunch, before boarding our exploration boat again, heading towards the main forked channel known as Old Danube. Along the endless row of willow trees, several Rollers, Pygmy Cormorants, Black-crowned Night Herons, Squacco Herons and Common Cuckoos were seen, with some Marsh Harriers, Purple and Grey Herons, and Ferruginous Ducks crossing by. More Red-necked Grebes were spotted, and not far from them, a beautiful Dalmatian Pelican flew right next to our boat for us to catch every single pattern detail of this very rare European bird. Other corners of the various lakes offered hundreds of Whiskered Terns feeding by or simply sat on the Water Chestnut beds, alongside with a few pairs of Black Terns and Common Terns. A European Penduline Tit was heard nearby, so we stopped to give it a try, getting wonderful views of a male and one of its lovely woven baggy nests, cleverly concealed amongst the willows and reeds.

We also found groups of Great White Pelicans congregated amongst Great and Little Egrets, Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Glossy Ibis and Black-crowned Night Herons, waiting for a good chance to catch some fish. Other White Pelicans were spotted catching some fish from the surface of the waters by putting their baggy beaks and heads in the water and continuously stirring it. We continued on the main Danube channels back towards the boat in Lebada, spotting dozens of marsh birds such as Marsh Harriers, Red-footed Falcon, Hobby, Ferruginous Ducks, Squacco Herons, Black-crowned Night Herons, and a single Northern Wheatear alongside a lovely Lesser Grey Shrike.

We then arrived at Lebada where our 'mother ship' was waiting for us, ready to sail down to Eighth Mile, diverting onto the Magearu channel where we spent the night. We had a beautiful sunset whilst enjoying another scrumptious dinner washed down by local wines and beers we all enjoyed!

Day 6

Thursday 24th May

Magearu Channel – Letea – Old Danube – Lake Bogdaproste – Trei Lezere Lake – Loptpatna (overnight)

We had another lovely day, and although it was a bit cloudy and breezy at breakfast time, the sun came out as we boarded our expedition boat, right after our usual delicious breakfast. The endless reed beds and massive old willow trees covered the surroundings of the northern channels of the delta as we entered onto the stretches of Magearu Channel. The number of Squacco Herons, Hooded Crows, Common Starlings and many other common birds were the perfect contrast with the colourful European Rollers and Great White Pelicans. A heavy

buzzy call diverted our attention to tall single rushes where a singing Savi's Warbler was sat on top, singing away non-stopping. Then, the familiar tone of Bearded Reedling put us on two beautiful males and female individuals, beautiful birds! Not far from this point a Little Crake was spotted along some ferns right on the shore of the floating reed islands which was eventually seen really well!

As we were reaching the main area of floating reed-bed islands, the stirring of our boat's engine brought up a strong smell of methane gas, product of the ancient accumulation of fossilised material and vegetation kept beneath the floating reed-bed islands. This was well explained by our local guide Florin, with a very clear demonstration out of the boat. This is an ideal place for pelicans to lay their eggs, after fluttering with their feet their desired area to 'nest'. After this, we drifted back the channel into the village of Letea where we took a nice walk around this very traditional border village (Romania – Ukraine). We saw a few interesting birds on our arrival in the village, such as Common Cuckoo, Black Redstart, White Stork, European Bee-eaters, Eurasian Hoopoe, Tree Sparrow and Lesser Whitethroat. Whilst walking through the village, Florin gave us a comprehensive explanation about this site, its people and their everyday living; their life nowadays is still similar to the ancient ways, as the village and its 200 inhabitants are quite isolated in the north-eastern corner of the Delta, bordering with Ukraine. This explains the complexity of the Letean peoples' language, a mixed dialect of Romanian and Ukrainian. We walked along the sandy 'streets' of Letea watching more Tree Sparrows, Black Redstart and Eurasian Hoopoes, amongst others. After a good stroll around the village, we returned to the river and our excursion boat, heading back to our floating hotel slowly, while listening Savi's Warblers, Penduline Tits and Bearded Reedlings all the way down the canal. Alongside them, dozens of Squacco Herons, Rollers, Common Cuckoos, Black-crowned Night Herons, and plenty more were seen. We arrived at our 'flotel' to enjoy our lunch and a short break.

After lunch, the afternoon excursion started with great views of a gorgeous male Golden Oriole which made the day for many of us! Moving slowly up the Bogdaproste Channel and lake, we watched singing Common Redstarts, colourful Rollers and standing Squacco Herons. We arrived at a beautiful channel full of Great Crested Grebes, Whiskered Terns, a few Dalmatian Pelican and a few pairs of Black Terns, finding also a beautiful male White-winged Tern amongst them! We also heard lots of Eurasian Bitterns calling actively and a few Little Bitterns. The latter were constantly seen crossing the reed beds side to side, trying to catch some dinner; the number of frogs living in this unique Water-Chestnut habitat is huge, especially Edible Frogs. We kept going into lake Trei Lezere, another beautiful but much smaller lake, where we spotted a few pairs of Black Tern amongst plenty of Whiskered Terns, and White Pelicans and a few individuals of Dalmatian Pelicans, surrounded by Caspian Gulls, Pygmy and Great Cormorants, and Common Pochard, amongst others. We spent some time watching a beautiful male Tawny Owl, perching on a very close willow branch, right in front of us!

After a good afternoon excursion, we made our way back to our floating hotel, drifting down the labyrinth of channels till we found it 'parked' by a beautiful enclosure of reeds and willows, in the middle of nowhere with a stunning wild vista, including pelicans and terns perched on some logs right in front! It was very wonderful to see this background landscape over our delicious dinner, alongside a marvellous sunset which made us interrupt our meal in order to dash to our rooms and grab our cameras for a posterity shot!

Day 7

Friday 25th May

Loptpatna – Razaboinitia – Lake Baclanesti – Sontea Canal (mile 36 to Tulcea)

This morning was very overcast with grey weather in the delta; we were surrounded by dark clouds which predicted heavy rain in the area. After our usual breakfast, we set off again in the little boat exploring new channels, backwaters and small lakes. The whole gamut of herons appeared almost constantly, with Squacco Heron and Black-crowned Night Heron the most numerous. Also, European Rollers outnumbered Cuckoos, which were abundant all over the area. Not very long after we set off on our small boat, a massive downpour finished our morning and forced us to make our way back to the floating hotel in order to change our wet clothes and do some leisurely birding from there till lunch time. After an early lunch, the weather improved a little, so we decided to go out again in our smaller boat. It was a short but very productive boat ride which produced fantastic views of Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Ferruginous Duck, a beautiful pair of Little Bittern perched on top of the reeds, and many other birds. We entered into Lake Baclanesti where large groups of Mute Swan and White Pelicans were gathered together with Great Cormorants. A beautiful White-tailed Eagle was spotted on top of a short willow tree and we all enjoyed watching her through the scopes, alongside Whiskered and Black Terns. Soon after that, a storm reached our area from the east forcing us, once again, to drive back to the 'mother ship' which was already on the way to the Old Danube and then to Tulcea.

We did some birding from the floating hotel while heading to the main river Danube stream into the main port, spotting some interesting wildlife along the journey, having some scattered showers along the way. Once in Tulcea, another lovely dinner was served overlooking the Danube, with the town in the background. We had some heavy rain during the night, with thunder and lightning which flashed in our cabins.

Day 8

Saturday 26th May

Denistepe – Babadag Forest – Sinoe (Black Sea area)

We had our breakfast at the usual time and then we drove out of Tulcea heading and towards the area of Babadag. Along the road, we made our first stop at the area of Denistepe, following a dirt track through wheat fields and dry rocky hills where many interesting birds such as Eurasian Hoopoe, Tawny Pipit, Corn Bunting, Spanish Sparrow, Marsh Harriers and a very handsome Black-headed Bunting were seen beautifully. A pair of Common Quail was seen along the track as we were driving to the foothill of the mountain, where we also spotted several pairs of Isabelline Wheatear, some in-flight Greater Short-toed Larks, Skylarks, Tawny Pipits, Common Kestrels, Short-toed Snake Eagle, Northern Wheatear, and also some little Souseliks. Happy with the wildlife seen here, we continued our journey back to the main road into the village of Babadag. We made a stop in the Babadag Forest where we had a very enjoyable walk which produced very interesting butterflies and some interesting wild flowers, alongside lizards, moths and crickets. A male Levant Sparrowhawk and Ortolan Bunting were also seen here. After the walk, we came back to our minibus in order to drive to our picnic spot.

The marsh of Sinoe, an adjacent wetland area to the Danube Delta National Park and close to the Black Sea shore, was the perfect stop to enjoy our delicious picnic lunch in the pleasant weather. Marsh Harriers, Hoopoe, Dalmatian Pelicans, Yellow Wagtails (*race feldegg* or Black-headed Wagtail), and two flying Eurasian Bitterns were spotted while having lunch. A distant group of Collared Pratincoles made us walk into the tall grass and towards a flooded pond where we saw interesting birds such as Shoveler, Common Shelduck, Reed Bunting, Great Reed Warbler, Black-necked Stilt, Marsh, Curlew and Wood Sandpipers, Kentish Plovers, Dunlin, and close views of

dozens of Collared Pratincoles. It was then time to move to a different stop closer to the Black Sea shore, where we made a couple of stops; the first one, right in the marsh where a considerable nesting colony of Common Terns was surrounded by Avocets, Black-headed Gulls, Black-winged Stilts, mating Collared Pratincoles, and interesting waders such as Black-tailed Godwits, Ruff, Terminck's Stint, Dunlin, Redshank, Curlew Sandpipers, and Kentish Plover, amongst others. A single Little Tern was also spotted here. The second stop was not far from here and a little before the sea front, exclusively to try for the very elusive Paddyfield Warbler. We had to work a bit to get good views of this wanted bird, but eventually it came right on top of the reeds.

The sun was still shining and the weather settled: perfect for walking along the Black Sea shore, overlooking the beautiful landscape of this little corner of this gigantic-lake-looking sea. Some of us had wet feet after walking deep in the water, and a photo session by the abandoned old canoes. A single Little Ringed Plover was spotted here amongst the many other 'usual' birds such as Great Cormorants, Caspian Gulls, Common Terns, and others. We then returned to the minibus to start our drive back to Tulcea, making a few quick photo stops along the way in order to catch with our cameras gorgeous orchids and colourful meadows adorned with gorgeous wild flowers, taking advantage of the magnificent natural light!

Once in Tulcea, we had time to get ready for dinner, enjoying the tasty local wine and beer, accompanied by another – sadly, our last – delicious supper. We all lifted our glasses and made a toast, wishing each other all the best in the future, and remembering up the lovely moments we had enjoyed throughout the tour. Our cook proudly presented to us our special farewell cake and some champagne came along to reinforce our celebration! We thanked them all for looking after us so well during the tour! We also expressed our deep thanks to our local guide Florin for all his expertise and lovely companionship, and for sharing with us the beautiful landscape and wildlife of his lovely country!

Day 9

Sunday 27th May

Somova old Quarry – Somova Oak forest – Macin National Park

After a very rainy night, we started the day with a usual breakfast overlooking a grey-skied Tulcea. After our last delicious meal on board, we packed our belongings and left behind the wonderful crew of the boat who had looked after us very well while exploring the Danube Delta. We boarded our minibus, driving up out of Tulcea and heading towards the eastern outskirts of the town, where we made a stop to explore an abandoned quarry. Here, we took a short walk which produced very interesting birds such as Ortolan Bunting, Red-backed Shrike, Northern Wheatear and Barred Warbler. We all enjoyed watching through the scopes a nesting Long-legged Buzzard with three chicks. We also had great but short views of a lovely male Pied Wheatear. We returned to the minibus it started to rain: good timing to move on towards our next spot just 30 minutes away from the quarry.

We arrived at Somova Oak forest where we had an enjoyable walk through this lovely habitat of meadows and Balkan Oak trees, where new target birds for our list were seen very well, such as Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Sombre Tit, Honey and Steppe Buzzards, Hobby, Ortolan Bunting, Sombre Tit, and a very vocal Levant Sparrowhawk. We completed the whole walk along the crest of the meadow, getting Grey Partridge, Hoopoe, Corn Buntings, Red-backed Shrikes, Skylarks, Woodlarks and European Bee-eaters along the way. Down in the foothill of the meadow, our minibus was already waiting for us with a delicious picnic lunch which we all enjoyed after our great walk! The weather improved a lot over our meal, so it was a good time to continue our drive to our last stop in the Macin Mountains National Park. Here, we took a good walk amongst the green valleys

surrounded by granite boulders, and we managed to see Pied and Northern Wheatears, Long-legged Buzzard, Common Kestrel, a nesting pair of Woodchat Shrikes, and a very distant Common Rock Thrush. On the way down, we scanned a ravine full of bare trees, oaks and ash trees where we found Turtle Doves, European Bee-eaters, Common Starlings, European Goldfinch, and a beautiful pair of Hawfinches feeding a youngster.

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 28th May

Tulcea – Bucharest airport

We woke to another nice and sunny morning at Tulcea as a friendly farewell to us. After a delicious breakfast, our local guide Florin turned up to say goodbye to all of us, and we certainly bade a warm farewell to him, hoping to see him again sometime in the future and wishing all the best for him and his family! Then, our bus was ready to go so we loaded our belongings and set off for Bucharest, making a couple of stops on the way. We arrived at the airport in time to sort out our luggage and check in. We had a smooth and comfortable flight back to Heathrow airport, where we arrived on time and for more farewells at the luggage carousel.

We all agreed that we had a fantastic tour in Romania; we were lucky enough to share wonderful wildlife moments with the right company of people, all with a huge passion for wildlife and with great camaraderie. It was a journey full of highlights of great wildlife, accompanied by generally good weather. Our hotel hosts, in the mountains, on board and in Tulcea, were fantastic and they couldn't make us feel more welcomed, looking after us very well, providing delicious food and showing their passion for what they do. We had a truly great time in this wonderful and poorly known country, a trip which will be well kept in our memories and hearts.

“La revedere Rumania - multumesc! (Goodbye Romania - many thanks!)”

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Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>					✓		✓	✓	
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓	✓			✓	
4	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				✓					
5	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					✓	✓		✓	
6	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>						✓	✓		
12	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					✓	✓	✓		
13	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					✓	✓	✓		
17	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					✓	✓			✓
19	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>						✓	✓		
20	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
21	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					✓		✓		
22	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>									✓
23	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
25	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				✓					
26	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>						h		h	
27	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				✓		h	✓		
28	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
29	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
30	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
32	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
35	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>						✓	✓		
36	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
42	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>					✓			✓	
44	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>			✓	✓					
47	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Black Kite	<i>Milvus nigrans</i>	✓				✓				
52	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓		
53	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				✓					
54	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓					
	Steppe Buzard	<i>Buteo buteo vultinus</i>									✓
60	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
64	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓				✓	
66	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	
77	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								✓	
81	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							✓		
83	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>								✓	
90	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					✓			✓	
93	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
94	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>								✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	May								
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
97	Common (Mew) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>					✓				
98	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>								✓	
103	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>								✓	
104	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
105	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
106	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						✓			
107	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
110	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
111	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>									✓
112	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
113	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		h	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	h	h
116	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>			h						
120	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	
121	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
122	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓		✓		
123	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓			✓	✓
124	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
127	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			✓		h				
128	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓				
129	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>									✓
130	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓						
133	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓						
134	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓		
136	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
137	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓		✓		✓	
138	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					✓	✓		✓	
140	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>				✓					
141	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
142	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
143	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			h		✓	✓			✓
144	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓						
145	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
146	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		h							
147	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
148	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
149	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
150	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓		✓				
151	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓					
155	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			✓						
156	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
157	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
158	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						✓			
161	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>								✓	✓
163	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								✓	
164	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					✓				✓
165	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
167	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
168	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									✓
172	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓			h	h	h	
173	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		✓	✓						

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			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
174	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
176	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							✓		
180	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					✓				
181	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					✓				
183	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					✓		✓		
184	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			✓						
185	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		h							
187	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>						✓			
189	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>				✓					
190	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				h					
191	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓	h					
192	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓						
196	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>						✓		✓	
197	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
199	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
200	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			✓						
201	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			h						
202	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓						
203	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓	✓						
204	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓						
206	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					h		h		
207	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								h	h
208	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			✓						
211	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓			✓			
212	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					✓				
213	Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>									✓
217	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									✓
219	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									✓
220	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			✓						
221	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
222	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								✓	
223	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
226	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>					✓	✓	✓		
227	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>				✓		✓	✓		
228	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>								✓	
230	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓						
231	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
232	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								✓	
234	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓							
237	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	h		✓	✓	
241	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓							✓
243	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		✓							
244	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>									✓
247	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
248	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓						
250	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								✓	
251	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>								h	
252	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>									✓
253	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓						
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	Common name	Scientific name	May									
			19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			✓							
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					✓					
4	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓							
5	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>			✓							
6	Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>										✓

Amphibians

1	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>			✓							
2	Yellow bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		✓								
3	Fire bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>						✓				
4	Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Pelobates syriacus</i>										✓
5	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	h		✓
6	European Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>										✓

Reptiles

1	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	
2	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>						✓	✓			
3	Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>									✓	
4	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>									✓	✓
5	Steppe Runner	<i>Eremias arguta</i>										✓
6	Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>									✓	
7	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>									✓	
8	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>										

Butterflies

1	European Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓								
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>							✓	✓	✓	
3	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓	✓						
4	Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>						✓				
5	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>		✓								
6	Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>		✓								✓
7	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓				✓				
8	Long-tailed Blue	<i>Lampides boeticus</i>									✓	
9	Zephyr Blue	<i>Plebejus sephirus</i>										✓
10	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>										✓
11	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>										✓
12	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓								✓
13	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>					✓		✓			
14	Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>									✓	✓
15	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>									✓	
16	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>									✓	
17	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓								
18	Mountain Ringlet	<i>Erebia epiphron</i>		✓								
19	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓							✓	
20	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata magera</i>		✓	✓							

Other invertebrates

1	Nine-spotted Moth											✓
2	Brimstone Moth			✓								
3	Silver Y Moth			✓								
4	Hornet Moth							✓				
5	Bronze-browed Bush-Cricket										✓	✓