

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

13 - 22 June 2018



Pygmy Cormorant



Fire Salamander



Lesser Spotted Eagle



Cruising the Danube

Report and images compiled by Rob Murray



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Summary

This tour took us from the high mountain scenery of the Carpathians where remnants of snow still clung to gullies, to the flat, parched steppe landscapes of Drobrogea and water lily fringed channels of the Danube Delta. It was an appreciation of the natural history and geomorphology of this varied Romanian landscape. We searched for butterflies, dragonflies, amphibians, mammals, flowers and, of course, birds, all seen in the context of the landscape and culture. There were many highlights, but for most the close proximity to Brown Bears and a Wild Boar, and superb views of a Delta-dwelling, glaring green-eyed Wildcat will stand out amongst the memories. The immense numbers of herons, egrets and pelicans gracing the blue skies and vast reed beds of the Delta are unforgettable. Florin Palade, our affable, patient and authoritative local guide interpreted this fascinating biodiversity in terms of the historical and present day influences acting upon it.

Day 1

Wednesday 13th June

The flight from Heathrow arrived on time in Bucharest. After some delays for baggage, toilets and changing money we eventually got on the road for the long drive to Zarnesti. The bus was very spacious and beautifully air conditioned but the windows were rather dark for seeing out. Consequently not many birds were identified but there is never much to see as we cross a vast, intensively farmed landscape before reaching the more productive foothills. Stopping at the OMV garage produced good views of Field Crickets at the entrances to their burrows. We arrived at the Elena Hotel in Zarnesti at 9pm and quickly went in for an evening meal. It had been a long day so most of the group retired immediately after the briefing about tomorrow's exciting programme.

Day 2

Thursday 14th June

An outbreak of extremely loud thunder and torrential rain from 2am until 4am gave a disturbed night's sleep for some of us. However, there is always a positive side. Heavy rain entices Fire Salamanders out from cover and later this was shown to be true.

After a hearty breakfast we made our own sandwiches and prepared to leave for a short bus ride to the entrance to the impressive Zarnesti Gorge. As we left the tarmac road a narrow, boulder strewn stream gushes alongside the unmade surface. We made our ascent towards the entrance of the gorge very slowly to enhance our chances of finding a Dipper. One obliged. Grey Wagtails were also spotted in this classic habitat for them. As we alighted from the bus a few spikes of Bird's Nest Orchid were seen thrusting up through the Beech leaf litter. A steep and towering rock face confronted us which looked a highly suitable place for Chamois. Sure enough we picked out four ambling confidently over the fractured limestone, oblivious to the fatal consequences a slip would lead to. A number of very special flowers were in bloom including Mouse-eared Saxifrage, Lesser Butterfly Orchid, Alpine Aquilegia and even a patch or two of Edelweiss. Suddenly, alarm calls of Grey Wagtail, Great Tits and Song Thrush alerted us to a dark shape retreating into the canopy of an Ash tree. It was a Tawny Owl that had sparked off a panic in the songbirds and we were able to see it really well later during our descent as it had stayed in the same place. We searched in vain for a glimpse of a Wallcreeper, but did find a Black Redstart by the climber's hut. An immaculate black and yellow blotched, sloth-like Fire Salamander crept lethargically along the far side margins of the stream and another one was discovered on our side giving excellent opportunities for

photographs. As we approached the shrine to a drowned young couple caught in a flash flood, the warm sunshine enticed more butterflies on to the wing. Some time was spent here puzzling over their identities. A rare opportunity to compare Willow and Marsh Tits presented itself as both are resident here. It was time to descend and return to our base in Zarnesti for lunch.

After a short post-lunch break we drove to Bran via the scenic route skirting the edge of town, away from the main roads, from where we had panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. A Yellowhammer was the best sighting along here. We emerged in the town of Bran and parked by the public space where calling Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers attracted our attention. We soon located the birds and secured pleasing views. Serins and Fieldfares in summer plumage were a delight and it is always pleasing to find Spotted Flycatchers making sorties into space and returning to the same perch. The nest of a pair of Fieldfares was spotted high up on a horizontal bough and we watched the brood being fed. We took a stroll to smirk at the tourists milling around purveyors of souvenirs reflecting the Draculean association of the castle. Although it is impressive from a distance, none of the group wanted to look inside so we moved on to explore a nearby hillside. This open landscape formed a vast flower meadow with scattered bushes. It is the haunt of Great Grey Shrikes and Common Rosefinches, both of which we found, plus the bonus of a Whinchat. It was a surprise to find Fenton's Wood White butterflies in this habitat.

With some time to spare before meeting the ranger to escort us into the bear hide, we entered the gorge at Rasnov and ran into a shower of rain that developed into a prolonged thunderstorm which was to last for the remainder of the evening. Despite the inclement weather there was still activity in the clearing viewed from the hide. We didn't settle down very quietly and unfortunately not everyone had switched off camera flashes and red beam focusing aids. As a Wild Boar ventured from cover and warily approached the hide it was alarmed and startled by flashes and fled with alacrity. Some while later it reappeared but was scared off by red beams. It did make a third attempt but this time it was a loud crack of thunder and a bolt of lightning that finally spooked it. There was an audible intake of breath as a female bear lumbered into the clearing and scrambled up onto the logs concealing food. This one had a scar on her face suspected to have been the result of a violent male during mating. She wandered off and we waited for quite a while staring at the void willing another bear to show. Sure enough a different female took centre stage. She had a scar on her backside and proceeded to expel a veritable cascade of urine down the side of the hollow log. Once she had sampled enough biscuits and corn she sauntered off. The first bear made a second visit and stayed for longer. It was pouring with rain the whole time and the murky, low light made photographing the animals challenging. It was better to abandon the camera and enjoy the activity with the uncluttered naked eye. Our two hours passed all too quickly and soon we were back in the hotel eating our own biscuity snacks and peanuts. As it was only 9.40pm there was time to do the checklists and reflect upon what we had seen during a very long day in the field.

Day 3

Friday 15th June

After a sustaining breakfast featuring a wide range of choices we boarded the bus and headed off to the Valea Strambei. Stopping on the outskirts of Sinca Noua to watch an active White Stork's nest met with everyone's approval. The female was attending to well-developed chicks who were flexing their wings and shuffling around the confined space of the nest. A little further along the road an adult Lesser Spotted Eagle was seen perched close to the road, so we piled out of the bus and enjoyed good scope views of this powerful looking raptor. It took flight as it was bombarded by a very upset Fieldfare. Now we could certainly appreciate its immensity. As

soon as we had disembarked at the start of the valley road we began to see and hear a range of birds. The beautiful strains of a Woodlark; the flute-like tones of a Golden Oriole; the joyous tirade of warbling from a Skylark all lifted our spirits. A Great Grey Shrike flashed past in the distance and regrettably perched out of sight. It was a successful visit for experiencing woodpeckers. Lesser, Middle, Great Spotted and Green were all found. Butterflies were abundant! Amongst those identified with certainty there were many that were not. The best included Purple and Lesser Purple Emperors, Map, Eastern Short-tailed Blue, Weaver's and Silver Washed Fritillary, and a host of more familiar ones. At a bridge over the stream Beautiful Demoiselles entertained us with their displays. One meadow yielded Lesser Butterfly, Common Spotted, Heath Spotted, Fragrant and Marsh Helleborine Orchids.

We returned to the hotel for a short comfort break and then set off for the trail to Coltii Chilieii. This footpath winds steeply up towards a monastery but when we arrived at the start of the path a severe thunderstorm was in progress and we abandoned the walk. It was decided to return to Zarnesti and try again later on. As we were driving back a Little Owl was noticed perched on a beam in the shelter of a house roof. We did return later and hadn't walked far up the hill before it rained again but we carried on regardless, which was the correct decision as conditions eventually improved and it was a pleasant evening. We found lovely specimens of Burnt-tip Orchid, Twayblade and many Fragrant Orchids. Birds were few but another chance to see and hear Willow Tits wasn't to be missed. Red-backed Shrikes put in an appearance and on the way down a Black Redstart showed up. It was an enjoyable walk in attractive mountain scenery.

Day 4

Saturday 16th June

We began the long journey to Tulcea at 8.30am and it would be 6.30pm before we reached the mooring of our flotel on the Danube. Our first break was intended to be at a MOL garage beside an oil well where Crested Larks are found. However, it was closed for renovation so we had to move on to the garage at the Buzau road junction. For the following few hours we wound our way across a vast, flat plain. After this the birding hotted up! We stopped at Radanu Lake by the side of the 2A road 47km from Ploiesti. This gave us a superb hour's introduction to waterbirds. There were Glossy Ibises, Squacco Heron, Spoonbills, Collared Pratincoles, Whiskered Terns, White Pelicans and family parties of Black-necked Grebes. A range of dragonflies were identified. Lesser Emperors were particularly prominent, but the Scarlet Darter really topped the bill. A large, emerald-type of damselfly known as the Dark Spreadwing, (*Lestes macrostigma*) was the only species we saw that has never been found in the UK. We continued to Slobozia where we took a comfort stop at a garage. This afforded a new experience for the men on the trip; queuing for the loo! A squadron of 11 White Pelicans wheeled overhead. After this town the road is flanked by power lines which yielded our first Rollers. As we crossed a bridge over the River Danube several fishermen were waving some large fish at the traffic hoping for a sale. The village of Barbulesti and the outskirts of the town of Tanderei displayed opulent houses with extravagant frontages built, allegedly, with ill-gotten wealth. Some enormous houses were fronted by huge gates made of very expensive stainless steel struts, and there was a Hollywood feel about the area.

A roadside stop beside an immense lake called Hasarlac introduced us to more water birds. Croaking Great Reed Warblers remained mostly concealed in the dense reeds keeping out of the wind which was rhythmically swaying the beds back and forth. Little Bitterns were regularly flying around giving good views. Two Pygmy Cormorants were perched on reeds at the outer edge of the beds so we could see them well and this was a new species for several of the group. The lake supports a range of species that would feature prominently once we were in the

Delta and this was an enjoyable introduction to the diversity and high numbers awaiting us. We moved on past our first Oleaster trees, False Acacia and Silver Lime trees which are of significance to the local mobile bee keepers before they leave the Delta region to journey northwards.

At this point we took a detour along the narrow 222F road towards Macin to view Bee-eater colonies. We parked at the foot of a hill and trooped up to gain better views and this proved to be a very productive stop. We watched a Long-legged Buzzard and a Booted Eagle searching for Sousliks whose alarm calls rang out. The eagle swooped and dived but failed to catch one, and as we watched a Red-footed Falcon flew over, and was swiftly joined by two others. As the Booted Eagle sailed by they attacked it to drive it off. Isabelline Wheatears were also seen here. We drove on through the village of Ciucurova past the smallest minaret in Romania. Suddenly the bus lurched to a halt and we piled out in the hope that a large Whip Snake that had crossed the road in front of us would remain in view. It didn't! It was 6.30pm when we arrived at Tulcea on the banks of the Danube where we joined our floating hotel and after a welcome drink of cherry brandy our cabins were allocated and dinner was served soon afterwards. The flotel remained moored at the quayside during a warm, muggy night.

Day 5

Sunday 17th June

The day began cloudy but with only a very gentle breeze. These were ideal conditions for viewing wildlife during our first exploration of the immense network of waterways in the delta. We transferred onto a smaller vessel and initially we went along a broad canal known as 36 channel. Many species were in full song so the engine was cut and we drifted in silent appreciation of the chorus. Icterine and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers were the first species we heard and then a Middle Spotted Woodpecker struck up its distress call. The channel is lined with White Willow (*Salix alba*), Narrow-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) giving plenty of cover for secretive Warblers. White Pelicans displayed their mastery of the air passing over in sizeable flocks.

As we turned off the main channel to cruise down a narrower, reed fringed waterway known as the Tofilca Channel we began to encounter larger numbers of aquatic birds. White Pelicans, Glossy Ibises, Pygmy and Great Cormorants, Squacco and Night Herons and Little Egrets were continually springing up from the river margins as we passed. Great Reed Warblers sang from the tips of the reeds in full view. We paused and deadened the engines to listen to a Savi's Warbler reeling and it came into view briefly. Two Goldeneye were a surprise as these ducks are more associated with the far north of Europe. As we nosed into the Porchello lake complex Whiskered and Common Terns were feeding in this sheltered lagoon area where Yellow Waterlilies and Water Soldier grow in profusion. This was also the habitat favoured by the exceptionally attractive Red-necked Grebes which readily consorted with Great Crested Grebes without interaction. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen in a dead tree, but at this stage Grey-headed was only heard. In this zone the trees are coated with Wild Vine (*Vitis sylvestris*). Two White-tailed Eagles were airborne and everyone managed to see and even photograph an adult bird.

We chugged along the Sireasa Channel enjoying good views of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Golden Oriole. Freyer's Purple Emperor butterflies were encountered regularly along this stretch of waterway. We drifted into the mouth of Nebunu Lake which is a strictly protected area with entry strictly prohibited. Here Arrowhead, Flowering Rush and Water Chestnut abound as do Marsh Frogs. Next we turned into the Sontea Channel and soon after made a right turn into the Carciovata Channel leading to the vast Furtuna Lake which supports a huge biomass of aquatic life. Frogs were super abundant but assorted Terns thrilled us the most. We watched plunging

Common Terns, surface dipping Whiskered Terns, a few graceful Black Terns and an immaculate White-winged Black Tern. This bird makes simple black and white plumage appear stunning. Then a huge Tern burst into view, this brute of a bird being a Caspian Tern, the largest of its family.

Turning right now brought us into the Cranjeala Channel at the mouth of which lies a narrow mud/sand bank occupied by Black-headed and Caspian Gulls which flew up in a Mexican wave as we sailed past. This channel is bordered by large, dead trees which were attractive to Rollers and Tree Sparrows. An adult Night Heron had seized a small Pike and flew up into a tree to dispatch it. The next turn right brought about our rendezvous with the 'Mother Ship' lying in wait in the broad Salina Channel. After lunch all three vessels sailed off together to dock at the geographical mid-point of the Delta. Some thunder and lightning during lunch hinted at an unsettled afternoon.

Sure enough at 3.30pm when we were due to depart it was raining persistently. Undeterred, we carried on with our exploration of the Delta, which was a good decision as the rain stopped after about an hour and we had an excellent afternoon. Red-necked Grebes had a nest in one of the recessed lagoon areas where Gadwall and Garganey were accompanied by Ferruginous Ducks. Here we had superb views of Purple Herons, and Night Herons perched close by. They were frog hunting and we decided to do some frog teasing of our own. Florin dangled a line over the side and bobbed a red bit of plastic above the frogs to which they responded repeatedly, trying to capture this chunk of plastic. It was an enjoyable challenge for the photographers to attempt a shot with the frog launched into the air. The lake where all this frivolity occurred provided us with our first Dalmatian Pelican of the trip. This afternoon presented us with our best views yet of Golden Orioles and Hoopoes in flight. As people's attention was beginning to wane after hours of looking out for interesting wildlife, the spotting of a Golden Jackal by the waterside jolted them back to a state of alertness. The Jackal trotted off amongst the trees and was soon lost to view. We returned to the Mother Ship at 6pm ready to be towed along to our anchorage for the night.

Day 6

Monday 18th June

A few early risers came up onto the top deck to experience the dawn movements and sounds of birds beginning their day. To everyone's surprise there were no mosquitoes overnight and no sign of any this morning. Savi's and Great Reed Warblers dominated the dawn chorus. Soon flocks of assorted herons passed overhead, while Penduline Tits came close to the boat as did a Grey-headed Woodpecker. We departed at 8.30am to explore the fascinating Magearu Channel which is much narrower than the main channel and flanked with Yellow, White and Fringed Water Lilies and flowering Water Soldier. A pair of Rollers were stationed in a dead tree. They took flight and began displaying, rocking from side to side as they descended like a plane out of control. A Hobby flashed by and then circled a willow tree before it dropped onto its nest of sticks calling to its mate. The boat's engines were cut and we drifted into the edge of the reedy channel where, by sitting quietly, we eventually secured magnificent views of both Penduline and Bearded Tits. Three nests of Penduline Tits, beautifully constructed from fluffy Willow seeds woven around the leaves and stems, were discovered hanging in Willow trees.

So far we hadn't crossed paths with many Dalmatian Pelicans, so three flying over gave us a fine opportunity to pick out the salient features. A second pull-in was made so that an explanation of the nature of floating reed beds could be given. Florin leapt off the boat onto the floating mass which wobbled and shook. He drove a very long

pole down through the floating vegetation to reveal how deep the water was beneath the raft of reeds. The pungent odour of hydrogen sulphide filled the air - unpleasant, but essential as it is this gas which imparts buoyancy to the raft keeping it afloat.

At the junction with Letea Channel we elected to navigate the waterway leading to a disembarkation jetty. From here we walked a rectangular circuit of the village looking at the simple dwellings with thatched roofs and barns constructed of timber and reeds. A population of about 200 people dwells in Letea. They were originally from Ukraine and after wandering in to graze their cattle they decided to stay. In the village we saw some very interesting birds including an adult Syrian Woodpecker, Hoopoe, Red-footed Falcon, Golden Oriole and Black Redstart. Everyone appreciated the moments of culture interspersed with some birding. Life in the village of Letea appeared tough, but the roughly built homes were enhanced with plots of sweet smelling carnations and other bright flowers in well-tended gardens. Once back on our boat we relaxed with a coffee, then began to retrace our steps back down the beautiful Magearu Channel to re-join the Mother Ship for lunch after an enjoyably varied morning.

This afternoon's trip began with a transfer from the Mother Ship to the excursion boat in mid-stream. We parted company at a bifurcation of the channel and left Dunaria Veche Channel to enter Bogoapraste Channel and subsequently the lake of the same name. The excitement here was in the form of three splendid Pallas's Gulls in full summer plumage which allowed a close approach and a fly by. Later, in the next lake we found ten of them bobbing on the open, shallow waters of the lake. This wetland was packed with well over 100 Great Crested Grebes. Many of them had humbug-like offspring scrambling onto their backs or following in tow. This lake is very shallow but supports a healthy population of fish, so is popular with fishermen who lay out nets and with White Pelicans who come to steal fish from them. Each net had its own attendant pelican. La Amiaza Lake houses a huge concentration of tree nesting Great Cormorants. The floating rafts of vegetation form the base for a massive colony of nesting Whiskered Terns and also attract White-winged and Black Terns. The mahogany coloured Ferruginous Ducks assemble here too and we counted at least 150 of them at this site, while Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes breed here as well. Just like their larger congener, the Great Crested Grebe, these two species also carry young on their backs.

Whilst cruising along the Lopatna Channel a rather unhealthy looking, mange-ridden Raccoon Dog was spotted on the bank. We soon caught up with the 'Mother Ship' and boarded in time for dinner. As our meal ended an adult White-tailed Eagle flew in, raised its wings, lowered its talons and made a futile lunge at the water surface to attempt a catch. It failed. Being up on the top deck after sunset was most atmospheric. The glowing embers of the day had receded below the western horizon and as dusk intensified so did the cacophony of croaks and from a multitude of frogs. It was overlain by cu-cu-coos from stuttering Cuckoos and the mechanical reeling of Savi's Warblers. A posse of Pelicans was fishing quietly in the gloom forming a tight circle in a river backwater close to our moored convoy. Venus shone brightly down to cast a reflection on the darkening water close to a shimmering image of a crescent shaped moon.

Day 7

Tuesday 19th June

Dawn brought a few keen observers to the upper deck. Tales were exchanged of nocturnal disturbances; about how a particularly raucous, amplified frog had disturbed slumber. There was a Little Bittern's nest in the reed bed opposite to our moored boat and both parents flying in and out and perching in full view on the dead reeds gave

us unusually prolonged views. White Pelicans were fishing cooperatively and inspecting the nets of a local fisherman. A Great Crested Grebe had caught a fish to feed to its attendant youngster but the pelican swam across with the intention of stealing the meal. The Grebe dispatched the fish just in time and would no doubt regurgitate it for the chick at a safer time.

The planned route today was to continue along to Cruilic Lake, then on to Virsina Lake. Crossing this leads to Visina Channel and finally to Stipoc Channel. Our lunch time rendezvous with the Mother Ship would be in Sontea Channel. Following 36 Channel would return us to the main channel and on to Tulcea. Squacco Herons lined the lily pad covered margins and permitted close views so that their beautiful plumes dangling down the nape could be really appreciated as they stealthily stalked frogs with quick-fire reflexes. As the boat nudged its way through floating mats of pond weed and chugged into Cruilic Lake, we were astounded by a gaggle of about 40 White Pelicans with wings half-raised, rumps tilted and capacious bills dipped to fish in a circle paddling inwards. This co-operative feeding is fascinating to witness at first-hand. One outcast Dalmatian Pelican was dabbling on its own, exiled to the far corner of the lake. Garganey had not been abundant, so a flock of 12 racing by was notable. As we entered Virsina Lake White Pelicans soared above; a flock of 50 was the first of many that were spiraling in the thermals. Some flocks were over 200 strong and particularly impressive.

We cruised through a wide variety of habitats ranging from the broad main channel to willow-lined, weed choked, narrow channels and water-lily smothered lakes. The exceptionally clear water revealed a substrate festooned with dense shoals of fish, while birds were again constantly passing overhead. A White-tailed Eagle was being mobbed by a comparatively tiny assailant which binoculars resolved as a Hooded Crow, it being dwarfed by the immensity of the eagle. The shallow Virsina Lake is well vegetated with Yellow and White Waterlilies and an extensive spread of white flowered Water Soldier and dragonflies were everywhere. Norfolk Hawkers, Emperor and Lesser Emperor Dragonflies, White-tailed Skimmers and numerous Scarlet Darters danced above the yellow and white lilies.

Suddenly, great excitement and tension swept through the group. There was a magnificent Wild Cat creeping along the bank beneath the overhanging willows and slipping between the gnarled trunks. It turned to give a hypnotic glare over its shoulder in contempt of its star-struck admirers. This truly was a fortuitous encounter with one of the most elusive of the Delta's mammals.

Once in Stipoc Channel Rollers became conspicuous as they sat on the abandoned electricity wires alongside Corn Buntings and a Red-backed Shrike. The boat glided smoothly alongside a White Stork's nest where an adult was tending to the little wagging heads of chicks which peered over the edge. Unfortunately wires at nest height rendered the situation unsuitable for our keen photographers. The nest is of ecological importance as a base for breeding House Sparrows, Jackdaws and Starlings who had nests within the complex of sticks. Two European Pond Terrapins were basking in the sunshine. A Grey-headed Woodpecker clamped itself onto a concrete pillar giving us views unfettered by leaves and branches. A little further down the channel the calls of a Black Woodpecker elicited the signal to cut the engines. This species had so far eluded us, and yet again not everyone saw its brief cameo appearance. We arrived at the Mother Ship at midday for lunch. Then we embarked upon the long voyage to Tulcea. Some lounged on the top deck. Others enjoyed a cold beer on the covered "patio". Some disappeared to their cabins for a snooze. A White-tailed Eagle leisurely flying overhead was the pick of the sightings on this final stretch of our exploration of the Danube. For the final section it was necessary to push the flotel rather than pull it with the tug. We docked at 7pm and settled down to the usual sequence of events.

Day 8

Wednesday 20th June

We left the boat this morning leaving our cases behind to be transferred to the hotel whilst we boarded the bus to set off for the first destination of a long day ahead. We travelled to the west of Tulcea near to the village of Parches. A rough track wound around a hillside cloaked in short grasses and wild flowers which concealed the burrows of endearing Souseliks. A Booted Eagle was hunting them but it didn't make a strike. We watched one from the bus as it chewed grass, standing upright like a miniature Meercat, until it scampered off and we then continued up the hill to the edge of a terrace giving us a spectacular view across what remains of the Danube flood plain. A double line of trees marks the course of the Danube and beyond this lies a huge lake and a few settlements, all of which are in Ukraine. Bee Eaters and Rollers passed overhead, while looking out across the vastness of the flood plain a Red-necked Grebe and a Bittern were picked out, but at a distance. A Kestrel had seized a Green Lizard and was carrying it off in a hurry.

The Somava Forest covers gently rolling hills, with Oak, Hornbeam and Wild Pear being the dominant species in this area. A Levant Sparrowhawk darted out of the oaks and raced away. We wandered up the hill to the top edge of this scattered oak woodland to a shrubby area which is known to hold Barred Warblers but none could be found. Red-backed Shrikes were easy to find though and this was a good area for butterflies with Scarce Swallowtail, Queen of Spain Fritillary and Great Banded Grayling all frequently encountered. A dramatic highlight featured a Cicada and a huge spider. The Cicada had just flown rapidly overhead and straight into the web of a huge spider which raced down its anchor cell to inject it with venom. A Honey Buzzard was utilising the thermals to search the area from a height.

Driving on through Telita an impressive old Russian church stood in ruins looking as if it belonged in a fairytale. A roadside stop just beyond here for a short walk into tall mixed woodland was profitable as Red-breasted Flycatchers were singing and darting about in the canopy, while Golden Orioles flew back and forth too. Lunch was set up in the area of the monastery at Celic-Dere. A Wryneck was spotted sitting on an exposed, dead branch allowing fine views. At km post 124 there is a quarry riddled with Bee-eater and Roller burrows. As these gaudy birds wheeled about a Little Owl sat on a sandy ledge and frowned deeply at us. The searing heat bouncing up from the black tarmac made standing there any longer too uncomfortable to bear so we resumed our journey in the cooler, air-conditioned bus. It was an hour and a half's drive from here to the Macin Mountains which rise to 467m and are composed of granite, which is still quarried today as we discovered from the dust and heavy lorries on the road. A particularly unconcerned Crested Lark ignored us and the passing lorries giving the group ample opportunity to watch what for many was a new bird.

It was inconveniently hot as we began a stroll up the Anton-Sulek path. The searing heat deterred some of the group and they retreated to the cool environment of our air-conditioned bus. Unfortunately, although both Rock Thrush and Pied Wheatear were picked out on the craggy rocks by the leaders, neither was seen by any of the group. However, more success was had with Red-rumped Swallows as everyone saw them gliding amongst Barn Swallows and House Martins. A Levant Sparrowhawk was seen off by belligerent Swallows who harassed it until it left the area. Looking higher up into the blue of the clear sky revealed a Short-toed Snake Eagle soaring. It had competition for snakes as we saw a Long-legged Buzzard carrying a long, yellow and green Caspian Whip Snake. The raptor grasped it firmly having looped the head end into a bow. The temperature had climbed to 37°C and this not only inhibited us but also made birds elusive and acquiescent. A Corn Bunting perched in the shade allowed an atypically close approach. Conversely, the heat perked up the butterflies making them very active and

restless. Scarce Swallowtails were common here but many were past their pristine best. Two other insects were of interest; a green Praying Mantis and a Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket which is of tropical proportions and is the largest bush-cricket in Europe.

Transferring to an area further along the ridge brought us to a flat plain of dried, short grasses and herbs. Here Isabelline Wheatears abound in this Steppe-like habitat which they share with Souseliks and Stone-curlews. Two of these staring, yellow-eyed oddities glared at us as we, in turn stared back at them. There is a more extensive clump of trees by a shepherd's camp renowned for Lattice Heath butterflies which despite a diligent search, we failed to find. However, Syrian Woodpecker and Sombre Tit compensated adequately. Moving beyond the wood towards the foot of the mountain into another open area put us in a position to watch Souseliks cavorting around their shallow burrows. By now it was 6.30pm but still 31°C and it was time to head off to the hotel for a revitalising shower and meal after a full day in the field.

Day 9

Thursday 21st June

We left the hotel a little earlier this morning to give us more time to reach the Black Sea. Steppe countryside was our first habitat today. The Deniz Tepe Hill is an inselberg which was formerly an island in the Black Sea and its name means 'Hill of the Sea'. It rises above the plain with rocky outcrops scattered over the short, grazed grassland and it forms a managed reserve. As we drove down the approach track typical open country birds were soon in evidence. A Tawny Pipit and Isabelline Wheatears including juveniles, Northern Wheatears and Corn Buntings had us looking in all directions. A few Ortolan Buntings teased us a little by continually flying out of binocular range but one eventually flew into a recess close enough for everyone to see it. The temperature was already too hot for comfort and continued to rise to 33°C later in the day but this didn't seem to curtail Souselik activity!

We continued to explore the foothills by walking up the trail to the left and searching the distant ridge for Pied Wheatears. One was spotted on a rock right at the top of the hill but it didn't remain in sight for long and no one got a clear view of it. As we left a Quail flew up off the track in front of the bus and dropped into a densely planted crop. As Babadag village was approached we saw a substantial Bee-eater colony in a wall of sandstone on the right hand side. The village has a Mosque and minaret built in 1610. During the garage comfort stop a moribund Scarlet Darter was picked up and examined in the hand. Soon we were turning off the E87 and driving through Sinoe en route to Istria. A Eurasian Bittern was booming as we stood looking at a reedbed hoping for Paddyfield Warblers to appear in this vast, open landscape. Fortunately, a few did pop up and the Bittern flew around. At this point noisy, barking dogs spoil the atmosphere so we moved on. These dogs were clearly over 6 months of age and by law they should be tethered or wear thick sticks in front of their legs so that they cannot chase people.

It was time to press on and head for the Black Sea coast near Vadu which was further south towards Constanta. It has to be said that this is not the most picturesque scenery as there are some ugly, abandoned, industrial relics dominating the view, but their presence deters developers from building hotels and bars to develop a coastal resort. The first lagoon by the derelict mineral extraction factory supported an interesting variety of birds. Autumn wader migration has already begun and Avocets and Black-winged Stilts were joined by a Ruff still sporting its magnificent breeding plumage. Wood, Common and Green Sandpipers probed the muddy fringes of the lagoon. A couple of large crèches of Shelduck ducklings were a delight to watch as they scuttled about after

the adult in attendance. Little Gulls, mainly in first-summer plumage but with a substantial number of adults mixed in, were loafing on the lagoon. We drove down the ostentatiously named Via Piscatorium 1 to the most seaward lagoon where the sandbanks held Avocets and throngs of Common Terns, with some White-winged Terns and Black Terns mixed with them. Even more Little Gulls were quietly resting here. Collared Pratincoles stayed well out on the marsh except for one which did a high level pass over our heads like a giant Swallow.

We continued down the sandy, bumpy track to the shore where some of the group opted to have a swim in the Black Sea. Others did a seawatch which produced Sandwich Tern and Yellow-legged Gulls. A line of poles offshore anchoring fishing nets provided perches for Great White Pelicans and Cormorants and a Dalmatian Pelican also flew over. As we were about to leave, an obliging Lesser Grey Shrike flew up onto a post stuck on top of a dune giving everyone a great view. Then a Golden Oriole perched briefly in view but kept flitting from bush to bush, testing the skill and patience of the photographers. On the main road back towards Tulcea we winced at the sight of a European Pond Terrapin attempting to cross it. Our driver avoided it successfully but there was little faith that it would make it to the other side. We were a little late returning to the hotel as it was approaching 7pm. The cook produced a farewell cake and a glass of champagne for our last evening as we said heart-felt thanks to Florin for his informative leadership throughout the trip.

Day 10

Friday 22nd June

Opportunities for birding today were restricted to what could be seen with the naked eye from the bus as we journeyed back to Bucharest. The best bird seen was a Hoopoe near to Hasarlac, although nesting White Storks adorning most villages that we passed through were good to see. We arrived at the airport in very good time for our British Airways flight to London Heathrow. All that remained now were the farewell hugs and wishes for a safe onward journey after a most enjoyable experience of all aspects of Romania's Natural History and geomorphology.

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Species Lists

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

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

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
30	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
31	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
32	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			✓					✓		
34	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								✓		
35	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			✓				✓			
36	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓				✓		
37	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								✓		
38	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓								
39	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
40	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓			
41	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				✓				✓		
42	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
43	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
44	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>								✓		
46	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					✓	✓			✓	
47	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					✓				✓	
48	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
49	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>									✓	
50	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>									✓	
51	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>									✓	
52	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>									✓	
53	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									✓	
54	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>									✓	
55	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>									✓	
56	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓		✓		✓	
57	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>									✓	
58	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									✓	
59	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>									✓	
60	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				✓					✓	
61	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	June										
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
62	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>									✓	✓	
63	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>							✓				
64	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓									✓	
66	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						✓					
67	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>										✓	
68	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
69	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
70	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>						✓	✓			✓	
71	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						✓	✓			✓	
72	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>						✓					
74	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
75	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
76	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
77	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		H	✓	
78	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		✓									
79	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>			✓						✓		
80	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
81	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
82	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>						✓	✓	✓			
83	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓	✓	H			✓	✓	
84	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
85	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>									✓		
86	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			✓			✓		✓	H		
87	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>		✓	✓			✓	H	H			
88	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>							✓		✓		
89	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	H		
90	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H				H		✓			
91	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓								
92	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>						✓	✓	✓			
93	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
94	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓		✓				
95	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
96	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>								✓		
97	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
98	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		✓	✓							
99	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>									✓	
100	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
101	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓							
102	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
104	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>				✓			✓		✓	✓
105	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓						
107	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓							
108	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								✓		
109	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓							
110	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		✓	✓							
111	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓			✓		✓	✓		
112	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
113	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	✓	H			
114	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>						✓	✓			
115	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			H							
116	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	
117	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								✓	✓	
118	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
119	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
120	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
121	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								✓		
122	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓							
123	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓			H	H	H		
124	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	
125	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					✓	✓	H			

	Common name	Scientific name	June										
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
126	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>										✓	
127	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>						H	✓	H			
128	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>						✓		H			
129	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>						H			H		
130	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						✓	H	H			
131	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	H			✓	✓	H	H		
132	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			H			H	✓	H			
133	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		✓	✓			H	✓	✓			
134	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓	✓								
135	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H									
136	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	H						✓		
137	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
138	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓		
139	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓	✓	✓								
140	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	✓	✓								
141	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	✓		✓								
142	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		✓						✓			
143	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H									
144	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				H							
145	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>									✓		
146	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		H	✓				✓				
147	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						✓		✓			
148	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>									✓		
149	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		✓									
150	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				✓						✓	
151	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				✓					✓	✓	
152	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				✓						✓	
154	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
155	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>						✓	✓	✓		✓	
	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>				✓	✓	✓					
156	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	✓	✓	✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
157	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
158	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>				H				✓	✓	
159	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓							
160	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		H	✓		
161	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			✓					✓		
162	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>		✓								
163	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓						✓		
164	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓								
165	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			✓							
166	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓			✓			✓		
167	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓								
168	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓			✓	✓	✓	
169	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓							
170	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>									✓	
171	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							✓	✓	✓	

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	1									
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		2								
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					1				1	
4	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>		4								
5	Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>				1				12	6	
6	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>		1								
7	Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>						1				
8	Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>							1			

Amphibians

1	Yellow bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			6							
2	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
3	Fire bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>						1				
4	Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>									1	
5	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		2								

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

Reptiles

1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>							1			
2	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>								1		
3	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>								2		1

Butterflies

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓				✓	✓	✓		
3	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓								
4	Mountain White	<i>Pieiris ergane</i>		✓								
5	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>								✓		
6	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓								
7	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			✓						✓	
8	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>									✓	
9	European Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	
10	Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea athalia</i>			✓						✓	
11	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
12	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓							
13	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>									✓	
14	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓							
15	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			✓						✓	
16	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>									✓	
17	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>										✓
18	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata magera</i>									✓	
19	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>						✓			✓	
20	Large Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata maera</i>		✓								
21	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓								
22	Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>		✓	✓							
23	Pearl Bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>		✓								
24	Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria selene</i>		✓								
25	Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argeolus</i>		✓	✓						✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	Hungarian Glider	<i>Neptis rivularis</i>		✓								
27	Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>		✓	✓						✓	✓
28	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sykvanus</i>		✓							✓	
29	Speckled Wood	<i>Parade aegeria</i>		✓							✓	
30	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	
31	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>		✓	✓						✓	
32	Fenton's Wood White	<i>Leptidea morsei</i>		✓	✓							
33	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	
34	Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>			✓							
35	Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura iris</i>			✓							
36	Silver Washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>			✓							
37	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>			✓							
38	Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Boloria (=Clossiana) dia</i>			✓							
39	Small Skipper	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>			✓							
40	Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>			✓							
41	Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>			✓	✓						
42	Short-tailed Blue	<i>Cupido argiades</i>			✓							
43	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>				✓					✓	
44	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>					✓					
45	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>		✓								
46	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>									✓	
47	Mountain Argus	<i>Aricia artaxerxes</i>									✓	
48	Wood White	<i>Leptidia sinapsis</i>									✓	
49	Great White-banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>									✓	
50	Niobe Fritillary	<i>Argynnis niobe</i>									✓	
51	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Isoria lathonia</i>									✓	
52	Common Glider	<i>Neptis sappho</i>									✓	
53	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>										✓

Dragonflies

1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>			✓							
2	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
3	Dark Spreadwing	<i>Lestes macrostigma</i>				✓		✓				
4	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>			✓							
5	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓			
6	Large Redeye	<i>Erythromma najas</i>					✓					
7	Norfolk Hawker	<i>Aeshna iscoceles</i>						✓	✓		✓	
8	Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
9	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	River Clubtail	<i>Gomphus flavipes</i>					✓					
11	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>			✓							
12	Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>			✓			✓				
13	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
14	White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>						✓	✓			
15	Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>						✓	✓			
16	Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	