

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

8 - 17 September 2018



Spotted Nutcracker



Camberwell Beauty



Spur-thighed Tortoise



Traditional horse and cart

Report & images compiled by Jason Mitchell



Naturetrek

Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour participants: Jason Mitchell (Leader), Florin Stavarache (Local Guide) with 14 Naturetrek clients

Summary

The tour started on a high in the Carpathians with an amazing count of ten Brown Bears giving breath-taking views as they searched for food at a feeding station, although these were almost upstaged by a magnificent Ural Owl seen perched right alongside the bus! Migration was in full swing on the Danube, with a spectacular 500+ Bee-eaters passing through in one afternoon, other highlights included an impressive 17 species of wader on the Black Sea coast, alongside a flock of thirty Red-footed Falcons! The warm, late summer weather provided a bounty of insects; Cardinal butterflies were seen in profusion and the striking Large and Lesser Fiery Coppers were a real treat. However, it was the feeding swarms of Migrant Hawker dragonflies, numbering in their thousands, which made the greatest impression. As ever, our time spent afloat on the mighty Danube was hugely popular and the large flocks of White Pelicans, the dozens of White-tailed Eagles and the ever-present Kingfishers made sure it lived up to its reputation as one of Europe's top wildlife-watching destinations.

Typically for September, the weather was settled and pleasantly warm, with temperatures around the mid to high twenties with an occasional chilly start to the morning.

Day 1

Saturday 8th September

Florin and I met the group at Bucharest Airport, the flight from Heathrow having arrived on time. With luggage safely stowed, we headed to a restaurant on the edge of Bucharest and after an excellent dinner, finished off with a delicious cherry pie, we drove north across the plains to Ploiesti and then north-west into the mountains. We arrived at our comfortable guest house in the small Transylvanian town of Zarnesti where we were met by our host Gigi. It was already late, so we settled into our rooms for a much needed sleep ahead of our first full day in the Carpathians.

Day 2

Sunday 9th September

Following breakfast, a short drive found us in the Piatra Craiului National Park. We parked in view of the towering limestone ridge and on leaving the minibus immediately spotted a juvenile Red-backed Shrike perched on its bush-top lookout and moments later an even closer bird was spotted just metres away. Further excitement arrived in the form of another young bird, this time a Peregrine Falcon which gave an eye-level display as it dashed over meadows just across the river. Moving on, we walked towards the forest and it was not long before we heard the metallic, Jay-like call of a Nutcracker and moments later one flapped into view showing off its characteristic white-tipped tail and vent. The species spends much of its time within the conifer forest but in the autumn it's often tempted from cover by the hazelnut crop. It seemed this was an exceptional year with an extraordinary number of birds active in the area and this was confirmed by Florin, the local guide, who exclaimed it was the most he'd ever seen! More familiar species included Kestrel and Common Buzzard, along with dozens of Chiffchaffs calling from any available cover.

After lunch back at the hotel, we drove to a local beauty spot with a fine view of the surrounding Carpathian landscape but which also serves as a lookout for birds of prey. On this occasion the sky was empty, but the same

could not be said of the grassland where Andrew spied a smart Wart-biter Bush Cricket, and the equally impressive Wasp Spider was abundant.

Our next destination was Castle Bran, the reputed former abode of Vlad the Impaler, where some of the group spent an hour visiting the castle and its attractive grounds. The rest of us explored a public garden from where we spotted four Hobbies hawking in woodland nestled on a crag high above the castle. Following a spot of afternoon tea, and shopping for some, we left Bran but not before a surprise Fieldfare was added to the tour list.

At the edge of Zarnesti, we stopped at a haunt favoured by Great Grey Shrikes and true to form a lone bird was seen perched motionless at the top of a bush. Moments later we were distracted by a very large raptor which had joined a group of soaring Common Buzzards and for several minutes, a magnificent Lesser Spotted Eagle circled high over our heads. Further aerial excitement came in the form of a thirty-strong flock of Bee-eaters which twisted and turned while trilling fervently before continuing their migration south. Satisfied with the day's events, we returned to Zarnesti for dinner.

Day 3

Monday 10th September

The first session of the day was spent enjoying the splendour of the Zarnesti Gorge, a breath-taking location used in several Hollywood feature films including 'Cold Mountain'. Leading to the gorge, a small stream was graced by a Grey Wagtail and two very obliging Dippers hunted for Caddisfly larvae alongside the bus, which served perfectly as a mobile hide. Coal and Marsh Tits called frequently from deep within the emerald green foliage and it was not long before we heard the distinctive nasal calls of a Willow Tit; then followed an exercise in separating this from the extremely similar Marsh Tit which is common here. Further on, a high-flying Common Buzzard had us peering skywards, something we would repeat many times with dozens of birds catching our eye as they flew across the gorge: Jay was the most common, along with the occasional Nutcracker and a couple of Sparrowhawks. However, it was not only birds which were seen high above us; with his sharp eyes, Des spotted a number of Chamois grazing on the vertiginous gorge sides. As the morning progressed, sunlight eventually began to flood into the deep gorge, bringing dozens of butterflies and dragonflies to life. Firstly a Green-veined White, which was soon followed by a Scotch Argus, but it was not until we reached the furthest point of the walk that a pristine Camberwell Beauty descended from the canopy, settling on the ground for a 'memory card-filling' twenty minutes! The return to the bus was a speedier affair and we were soon on our way back to Zarnesti.

At the guesthouse, we were treated to a three course lunch before heading out once more, this time to the Stramba Valley. En route, we pulled up behind a tractor and as we slowed some excited voices alerted the driver to an owl perched in a conifer alongside our bus. Although brief, we experienced once-in-a-lifetime views of the large, impressive and rarely seen Ural Owl before it swooped silently into the surround forest. Arriving at the base of the valley, we parked on a track between two meadows where we glimpsed a small red-tailed bird which quickly disappearing into cover; a short search saw us relocate a handsome male Common Redstart. With the sun shining there were a few butterflies on the wing. A probable Berger's Clouded Yellow sped past, but a Common Blue was more cooperative allowing us time to identify the salient field marks. A little further on, a large raptor lifted from a tree close to the road and a much hoped-for Lesser Spotted Eagle flapped powerfully overhead. It continued to show well as it soared in plain view for ten minutes and was joined briefly by a second bird, before both glided back into the forest.

Leaving the lower slopes behind, we headed further up the valley to our evening destination; a hide where we hoped to observe wild Brown Bears. On meeting the warden, we quietly made our way to the hide which overlooks a large woodland clearing. Almost immediately, a young female bear appeared and began its search for food hidden in various logs and trunks. During the next hour and a half, we experienced privileged views of ten individuals; the 'icing on the cake' came at the end when a mother and cub made a visit. Leaving the hide for the bus, further excitement came in the form of a rather inquisitive bear which was quickly shoed off by the warden. A few bird species were also present; a dozen Ravens vied for scraps alongside a diminutive Robin. Leaving the reserve, we headed home feeling most privileged and en route spied a Roe Deer at the edge of the forest before it slipped silently back into the darkness.

Day 4

Tuesday 11th September

Bidding farewell to our hosts in Zarnesti, we left the mountains for the Danube Delta via Sinaia where we made a visit to one of Romania's most famous buildings – the fairy tale-like Peles Castle. Built between 1873 and 1914 with visible elements of the German Renaissance style, [it](#) was used as the summer residence of King Carol. Peles was constructed following plans of several celebrated architects of the time, including Karel Liman and Johannes Schultz. After a coffee, we returned to the bus spotting a Treecreeper, Goldcrest and Red Squirrel along the way.

Next our route took us across the open plains close to Bucharest, then east towards Tulcea. Lunch was taken on the shore of a lake which was dotted with wildfowl; both Mallard and Shoveler were common along with a few Garganey, Teal and our first Ferruginous Duck. The resident pair of Marsh Harriers quartered the reedbed and a Black-necked Grebe bobbed amidst the ducks. Butterflies were numerous, especially Small and Bath Whites. But the cameras were torn between several strikingly orange Large Coopers and a single Mallow Skipper seen flying amongst the swathes of poisonous Thorn Apple and less showy Dodder.

The last stop of the day was at Lake Hasar, which was alive with a wide variety of water birds. Here we welcomed our first views of Pygmy Cormorant, with around forty roosting at the edge of a small reed-fringed island. Ducks were numerous and included Shoveler, Gadwall and Teal. On the shoreline some confiding Snipe shone in the low sun which highlighted the beauty of their gold-spangled plumage, while other waders included a few Wood Sandpipers, two Common Sandpipers and six Dunlin. Both White and Yellow Wagtails were picking at the mud for morsels, while a Marsh Harrier hunted over the reeds and a dashing Hobby whizzed past just metres away.

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

Day 5

Wednesday 12th September

After breakfast we boarded a smaller boat, allowing us to explore some of the Delta's network of narrow waterways. Moments after leaving the main channel, a Kingfisher zig-zagged ahead of us, and we enjoyed close views of Little and Great Egrets and also our first Squacco Heron of the trip; a popular species that featured frequently during our time on the Delta. Raptors were in evidence too, with Marsh Harrier, Hobby and the mighty White-tailed Eagle seen during our first outing. The latter was seen dozens of times during the morning and on two occasions perched in channel-side trees completely unperturbed by our presence, as did a smart

Grey-headed Woodpecker at the top of a dead tree. Stopping at the entrance to a protected lake, we scanned through the masses of waterbirds in search of scarcer species and were happy to find our first White Pelicans - two grey juveniles, which quickly drifted out of view. After some hot tea and coffee, we continued on our way spotting a Muskrat just before entering Lake Fortuna, where we saw several large flocks of White Pelicans fishing in the company of an equally large number of Pygmy Cormorants. The lake also produced plenty of Whiskered Terns and their much larger and impressive cousin the Caspian Tern. Shortly before arriving back at the floating hotel, a group of around fifteen handsome Red-footed Falcons circled over the boat and a similar number of Black Storks were seen turning on thermals in the far distance.

Birdwatching whilst having lunch on the floating hotel was both novel and productive, spotting yet more White-tailed Eagles and a Hobby. Heading back out on to the Crisan Channel in the smaller vessel, Greenshank and Snipe probed along the shoreline and a Wheatear was seen hopping around an area of bare, sandy ground. But the show-stopper was a sighting of two Golden Jackals hunting in the shade of trees along the riverbank. After an extended photo session we continued to Lake Jacob, on the approach to which Spotted Flycatchers darted around the canopy and remarkably a third jackal was seen skulking close to the channel. Unlike the others, this was a young animal; we all fell silent and soaked-up amazing views of this usually shy animal. At the lake another generally hard-to-see species, the Little Crane, was watched as it fed in the open and amazingly was joined by four more of its kin during our twenty minute stay. A very large flock of around a hundred Garganey was also noteworthy.

Returning to base, several Night Herons flushed from the surrounding thicket and incredibly another adult Golden Jackal was seen in the same spot as the previous juvenile; set against a burnt-orange sunset it was the perfect way to finish off what had already been christened the "Day of the Jackal".

Day 6

Thursday 13th September

The day started well with several blue-chip species seen before breakfast; the best included White-tailed Eagle, Caspian Tern and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

After breakfast, we transferred to the smaller vessel. Moments after leaving the floating hotel, the boat was put back in to reverse as we tried to locate a party of calling Long-tailed Tits; in the Delta they sport entirely white heads, making them even more attractive than usual. Waders were present in good numbers: Greenshank, Wood and Green Sandpipers and a fabulous white Ruff! Following on from the previous day's jackal extravaganza, we were lost for words when not one, but three of these attractive mammals hunted the shore just metres away allowing for some excellent wildlife photography opportunities, while a lone male Red-footed Falcon drifted over the boat showing off its smart 'red trousers'. After leaving the main channel, we pulled up against the river bank and climbed onto one of the Delta's many islands. A short walk led to a tower hide with commanding views over a series of abandoned fish ponds. Three or four groups of Bearded Tits were active in the area and with patience we gained views of several stunning males, while a flock of fifty Tree Sparrows near the base of the hide was a little easier to locate. Several warbler species were on the move with a Lesser Whitethroat spotted soon after mooring and the ever-present Chiffchaffs calling almost constantly, but the greatest excitement was caused by a little brown job (LBJ) hopping around the base of reeds which was soon identified as a Paddyfield Warbler. We returned to the boat and after ten short minutes we were again back on terra firma, this time looking at two awkwardly elegant Black-winged Stilts! In the same area, two Rollers graced phone lines and the

large and striking caterpillar of a Striped Hawk-moth entertained the photographers. Several large derelict buildings which once housed workers of the fish farm hosted a glaring Little Owl. Nearby shallow pools held several waders including Ruff and Black-tailed Godwit, while five Spoonbills flew overhead landing out of view on another pool. Back on the boat and with rumbling tums, Sava engaged full speed and as the “mother ship” came into view a diminutive female Little Bittern gave brief flight views as it crossed a gap in the reeds.

After lunch and a short siesta, we again headed cruised the smaller waterways; this time the Old Danube Channel. The first hour was a little slow but in idyllic, calm and sunny conditions we relaxed after what had been an action-packed morning. Reaching a lake, we were delighted to spend time observing a small, but close group of White Pelicans as they went about their business, with Whiskered, Common and Caspian Terns putting in an appearance. At the next and larger lake, we enjoyed the spectacle of several thousand Ferruginous Duck spread across its surface. Two White-tailed Eagles perched in a distant willow and three species of grebe – Great-crested, Little and Black-necked – allowed us to test our i.d. skills on this attractive family. As we approached the lake’s far side, two Dalmatian Pelicans entertained as they inspected fishing nets in the hope of a free meal. As we left the lake, Laura scored some ‘Brownie points’ by spotting a cryptic juvenile Little Bittern amongst tangled vegetation bordering the channel; moments later, it dissolved into the background but not before a superb demonstration of ‘sky-pointing’.

Returning to base, a Hobby posed beautifully in a dead tree close to where the floating hotel was moored for the night, proved a popular subject as it was bathed in the soft glow of the setting sun. After dinner Laura popped out on deck but soon returned having spotted a mammal in the reeds. With the whole group quickly assembled outside and aided by a torch, we discovered the beast in question was a Raccoon Dog. Seemingly unperturbed by our presence, we spent a very exciting and privileged ten minutes observing this rarely seen animal.

Day 7

Friday 14th September

Leaving the main boat, we set off on our gentle return journey to Tulcea and it soon became apparent that there was a light passage of Honey Buzzards migrating across the Delta, the first indication being a distant adult bird gliding south. This was later followed by a small group of three and then a juvenile which appeared from trees right alongside the boat but was quickly chased off by crows. A fine male Marsh Harrier quartered the reeds followed by a Black Woodpecker bounding through the same air-space. Other raptors included a flyby Peregrine and Sparrowhawk, but the morning belonged to the diminutive Little Bittern, with three birds seen in the space of an hour; our first was a fleeting glimpse of a female on the wing, the second, a juvenile, showed really well as it fished around at the base of reeds bordering the river and the third, another ‘juvey’, gave typically brief views. Further along the channel, we could hear the repetitive ‘pinging’ call of several Bearded Tits, with one exquisite male posing in the open on a reed stem. Our excellent run of Hobbies, Red-footed Falcons and White-tailed Eagles continued, with a few of each making the list. A short return visit to Lake Fortuna gifted us hundreds of pelicans loafing on the calm surface and as we left the lake, a striking Red Underwing moth landed on a willow trunk and a Purple Heron flew from cover.

The afternoon was spent birdwatching from the ‘floatel’, as we progressed slowly back towards the pontoon in Tulcea. From our elevated vantage point we saw several more Caspian Terns, a few White-tailed Eagles, four Red-footed Falcons and at least three Grey-headed Woodpeckers. Passing one of many small lakes a flurry of activity added some waders to the day list: Black-tailed Godwit, Snipe and Wood Sandpiper. Closing in on our

destination, two Black Storks flew over the boat and we enjoyed watching a local fisherman land a large catfish. Once in Tulcea, we settled down for the last top class dinner served on the floating hotel.

Day 8

Saturday 15th September

Having thanked the river staff for their excellent service during our time on the Danube Delta, we drove a short distance to Denize Tepe (Hill of the Sea), an impressive steppe-land hill which towers over the surrounding flatlands which were once covered by water. On our arrival one of the areas specialities, a handsome Long-legged Buzzard, took off from a pylon revealing its distinctive rusty-coloured tail. On leaving the bus, two juvenile Montagu's Harriers had us studying their finer plumage detail in an effort to separate them from their extremely similar Pallid cousin. The grassland was full of insects with the eye-catching Long-nosed Grasshopper being a favourite. Returning to the main road along a dusty track, a Little Owl glared at us from the top of a telegraph pole.

After a welcome comfort break we arrived at Vadu, where we looked down on a lagoon and with the aid of a telescope picked out dozens of waders of several species: Ruff, Avocet and Curlew Sandpiper were good for starters but there were some rarer species on offer. Along the shoreline a very small wader with yellowish legs proved to be a Temminck's Stint, yet another new species for many. Terns were plentifully and with care we found six White-winged Terns and a Little Gull mingled in with its black-headed cousins. But there was more to come, as suddenly from nowhere, a large raptor flew directly towards us and was swiftly identified as a pale-phase Booted Eagle. Back to the waders and Little Stint, Little Ringed Plover and Ringed Plover had joined the party.

Our picnic was taken at a delightful viewpoint overlooking Tuzla Lake where the 'star bird', a Marsh Sandpiper, rubbed shoulders with a large group of Ruff and singletons of Wood Sandpiper and Little Ringed Plover. Across the lake, a mass of white was initially assumed as being gulls but the scope told a different story – eighty or more Spoonbills stood motionless at the edge of a large reedbed. And as we looked on, a quartering Marsh Harrier flushed a Purple Heron. On the water three hundred Shoveler joined forces with fifty or so Mediterranean Gulls and dozens of Shelduck.

Having returned to the vehicle, we made for the coast but an immaculate male Pallid Harrier made us come to a rapid halt and leave the bus in a hurry! Moments later, several Red-footed Falcons came into view and as we looked on more joined the group until at least twenty five birds were twisting and turning directly over our heads. With hundreds of gulls suddenly flocking in, we realised the attraction was a swarm of flying ants; we marvelled at the feeding frenzy for ten minutes before a smart juvenile Montagu's Harrier broke the spell.

En route to the coast, we stopped at another lagoon just outside Vadu where at last we found several Spotted Redshank, a species we'd heard giving its distinctive "chu-it" call on the Delta more than once. An impressive supporting cast of Curlew, Gull-billed and Whiskered Terns were noted before a tiny wader was spotted swimming close to the island; a superb juvenile Red-necked Phalarope provided the cherry on the wader cake!

Almost at the coast and driver George came to another sudden stop as two Spur-thighed Tortoises were barring our way! One made a 'dash' for cover but his friend seemed happy to pose for the cameras, while other members

of the group found three Red-breasted Flycatchers, a Willow Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat in surrounding scrub.

Finally arriving on the shore of the Black Sea, a number of the group took the opportunity for a cooling dip while others scanned the beach and sea for wildlife, finding a roost of Caspian Gulls harbouring two Yellow-legged Gulls. While further along the shore a large flock of Sanderling chased the lapping tide and several noisy Sandwich Terns gave their rasping calls as they tracked the coastline. With time racing on, we headed north to our third and final accommodation where we were greeted with a 'warming' aperitif.

Day 9

Sunday 16th September

Our first stop today was an impressive viewpoint overlooking the Danube as it flowed towards Tulcea, where several flocks of Corn Buntings numbering around fifty birds flew past giving their "ticking" flight calls. The hillside was dotted with Suslik burrows but sadly none were active, having seemingly entered in to hibernation a little earlier than normal due to a lack of food following a long, hot summer. With the arrival of an unexpected shower, we returned to the bus and ten minutes later disembarked once more. Our walk across a wooded hillside was immediately enlivened by migrating raptors; in all, seven species passed during our hour-long visit with Long-legged Buzzard, Booted Eagle and Red-footed Falcon the pick of the bunch. The area is good for Sombre Tit and no less than five birds showed themselves, albeit fleetingly. Grasshoppers and crickets were abundant, with 'hoppers' displaced with each falling footstep but a singing cicada remained hidden despite our best efforts to locate it in a low canopy. The first of many Silver-washed Fritillaries nectared on some thistles and was briefly joined by a female Knapweed Fritillary and a stunning male Lesser Fiery Copper.

Moving on, we arrived at a monastery known as Cilic Dere; a site well known for its diverse woodpecker fauna and we weren't to be disappointed with four species heard or seen during our brief stay. On our arrival, we were immediately greeted by a Middle Spotted Woodpecker which flew across a glade and landed in a tree next to the bus, remaining in view just long enough for the whole group to obtain excellent views through the telescope. Three other woodpeckers – Green, Great Spotted and Syrian – also featured, with the latter sadly only giving brief views. Hawfinches were active too, flying overhead calling and eventually a confiding juvenile offered good views as it sat perched in a tree top. Other interest came in the form of butterflies, with the large and impressive Cardinal and Silver-washed Fritillary both present in large numbers.

After lunch we made haste to our next destination, the Macin Mountains National Park where a Praying Mantis did its best to blend in with its surrounding. The area can be very good for raptor passage but the afternoon was hot and the sky clear; a few Kestrels and a Hobby put in an appearance but a low-flying female Levant Sparrowhawk was the star bird. A cool, damp patch next to an area of luxuriant vegetation hosted dozens of butterflies, Adonis Blue, Large Copper and a single Lang's Short-tailed Blue being exciting finds. In increasingly hot conditions, we retraced our steps enjoying views of the rugged hills and the plains below.

Our last visit of the day, and of the tour, took us to an Oriental Hornbeam forest, in search of Sombre Tit and Syrian Woodpecker. Blue and Great Tits were active but sadly the same was not true of their sombre cousin, however, we did manage decent views of a Syrian Woodpecker before the time came for us to return to our guesthouse. Back in Tulcea we spent a pleasant final evening reflecting on what had been an amazing holiday, experiencing some of Romania's best wildlife and landscapes.

Day 10

Monday 17th September

Leaving the guesthouse in Tulcea, we set off for Bucharest airport amassing an impressive list of birds along the way, Black Stork, Lesser Spotted Eagle and twenty or more Red-footed Falcons being some of the highlights. After a quiet journey, we arrived at the airport in good time, saying our farewells ahead of a smooth flight back to the UK.

Receive our e-newsletter

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

Naturetrek Facebook

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

Setting up a personal profile at www.facebook.com is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!



Group activity

Species Lists

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

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>			20+	200+	100+	✓	✓		
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>			✓	100+	✓	✓	✓		
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>							100+		
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	300+		
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>			4	100+	6				
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
8	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>				3					
9	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			c.20	✓	✓	✓			
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>			10+	100+	8k+	300+			
12	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			1	2	2		1		
14	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>				c.15	1	2			20+
15	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					5		c.90		
16	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					2	3			
17	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				50+	c.10	4			
18	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				50+	30+	30+	2		
19	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
20	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1	1	1	4		
21	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
22	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>				500+	c100	200+	200+		
24	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				1	2		2		
25	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>			c.40	500+	50+	30+			
26	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			1	✓	✓	✓	✓		
27	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>						5			
28	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	1	2							2
29	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>							2	2	

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018									
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
30	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									1	
31	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	1	1	1		1	1	1	1		
32	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>			c.10	c.10	c.10	c.8	c.20			6
33	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>				1			2			
34	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>				1			4			
35	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				10+	10+	10+	1			
36	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>							2	1		
37	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	20+	✓	✓		1		1	1	1	
38	Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>				5						
39	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
40	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓	500+	✓	✓	✓			
41	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					2		2			
42	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>							c.50			
43	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
44	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				1			1			
45	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>							10			
46	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			c.10	✓	✓	✓	✓			
47	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				4	8	2				
48	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>							1			
49	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>							1			
50	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			2	3						
51	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				h	h		6			
52	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>							1			
53	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				2	8		1			
54	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				1	1					
55	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			5		12	2	5			
56	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							c.50			
57	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>							8			
58	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>							4			
59	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>							3			
60	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>			6				c.10			
61	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>					6		c.20			

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
62	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
63	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>							c.15		
64	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthaetus melanocephalus</i>							50+		
65	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
66	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>							2		
67	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>							4		
68	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				25+	20+	15+	3	✓	
69	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>							20+		
70	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				1	12	4	1		
71	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				c.40	c.30	c.30	c.15		
72	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>							6		
73	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓					✓	
74	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
75	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			1					4	
76	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	100+	
77	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1							
78	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>					1		1		
79	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				2	3		3	2	
80	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>				20+	20+	15+	1		
81	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	30+				c.500		c.20	1	
82	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	1				3				
83	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>								4	
84	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>				2	h	h			
85	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>								2	
86	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				2	✓	4		2	
87	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						2			
88	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	h	h			h			h	
89	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				4	3	5			
90	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
91	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>			2	c.15	1	6	c.30	2	30+
92	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	4		1	10+	10+	c.8	c.8	c.8	2
93	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1					1			

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018									
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
94	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	1									
95	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	2		1		8		20+	2		
96	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓						✓	✓	
97	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	40+	3								
99	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
100	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	20+	4	2						h	
103	Coal Tit	<i>Pariparus ater</i>	✓	✓	✓							
104	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	h									
105	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>									6	
106	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	✓	✓	✓							
107	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		c.10								
108	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
109	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
110	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					h					
111	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				h	c.30	6				
112	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>							1			
113	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>							1	2		
114	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓		✓			
115	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓			
117	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	✓	✓		h	✓	✓				
118	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>							1			
119	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	30+	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
120	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>					1					
121	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓					
122	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓									
123	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>					1		1			
124	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	✓	✓	✓							
125	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓								

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018									
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
126	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	✓	✓	✓						h	
127	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			1			h				
128	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓		✓							
129	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	1									
130	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	1	1			1					
131	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	3			4	3		c.6	4		
132	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	✓	✓								
133	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>							4			
134	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	3		1		1					
135	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		1					2			
136	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				2						
137	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>							1			
138	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				2	2		c.5			
139	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		2								
140	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
141	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>				h	50+					
142	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			6	✓			✓			
143	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		4		1	1					
144	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
145	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	h									
146	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓						✓	
147	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>									c.10	
148	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓								
149	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	h									
150	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>									c.50	
151	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				1	2	2				

Butterflies

1	Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			2							
3	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>				✓					✓	✓
4	Mallow Skipper	<i>Cacharodus tripolinus</i>				1						1
5	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>									✓	✓

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
6	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			2		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>									1
8	Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>									30+
9	Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>								1	✓
10	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			1					✓	✓
11	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				1					
12	Lesser Firey Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>								6	2
13	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			✓						
14	Scotch Argus	<i>Erebia aethiops</i>			2						
15	Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis Antiopa</i>			1						
16	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>				5	2	3			✓
17	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			1	2		3		✓	✓
18	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>				2					
19	Berger's Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias sareptensis</i>						6			✓
20	Great-banded Grayling	<i>Brintesia circe</i>									2
21	Obethur's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>									2
22	Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>									1
23	Lang's Short-tailed Blue	<i>Leptotes pirithous</i>									1
24	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>									✓
25	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>									1

Mammals

1	Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			3	2					2
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			11						
3	Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>				1	3	4			
4	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		1	2	1					
5	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	1								1
6	Chamois	<i>Rupicapra rupicapra</i>				2					
7	Musk Rat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>					1				
8	Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>						1			

Amphibians

1	Marsh/Pond/Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax sp</i>					✓	✓	✓		
---	------------------------	----------------------	--	--	--	--	---	---	---	--	--

	Common name	Scientific name	September 2018								
			9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2	European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>						h			

Reptiles

1	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>						1			
2	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>							✓	✓	
3	Spur-thighed Tortise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>							2		

Others

1	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>					✓				
2	Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>				✓					
3	Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>				✓					
4	Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>						✓			
5	Willow Emerald Damselfly	<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i>					✓				
6	Eastern Willow Spreadwing	<i>Chalcolestes parvidens</i>							✓		
7	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>								✓	
8	Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>								✓	✓
9	Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>				✓					
10	Wart-biter Bush-cricket	<i>Decticus verrucivorus</i>		✓							
11	Wasp Beetle	<i>Clytus arietis</i>		✓							
12	Conehead sp.					✓					
13	Striped Hawk-moth caterpillar	<i>Hyles livornica</i>						✓			
14	Red Underwing	<i>Catocala nupta</i>							✓		
15	European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>							✓		
16	Praying Mantis	<i>Mantis religiosa</i>									✓
17	Field Cricket sp	<i>Gryllidae sp</i>									
18	Long-nosed Grasshopper	<i>Truxalis nasuta</i>								✓	✓
19	Blue-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda caerulescens</i>									✓
20	Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>									