

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

12 – 21 June 2019



Wallcreeper



European Brown Bear



Red-necked Grebe



Dalmatian Pelican

Report and images compiled by Martin Pitt



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Summary

This tour started in the high Carpathians with its limestone massifs and upland species, then headed down to the coastal steppe of Dobrogea and the channels of the Danube Delta. We recorded 175 species of bird, from the upland specialities of Wallcreeper and Nutcracker and a host of interesting mammals, herps, butterflies and odonata. None could forget the evening with the Brown Bears in the forests, but at the other end of the scale, we then found the endearing Sousliks on the steppes.

It was a thrill to catch up with so many raptors showing such healthy populations, from the Carpathians with the noisy family of Peregrines and the close encounters with Lesser-spotted Eagles, and then the nests of Red-footed Falcons, Hobbies, and White-tailed Eagles around the Danube Delta and ultimately the nearly fledged Long-legged Buzzards in Dobrogea. As expected, water birds dominated the Delta. Here herons and ducks were at every turn, while the deafening sound of the frog chorus and the clouds of Red-eyed Damselflies also left an enduring memory.

Our last few days in the eastern steppes added even more species, most of these with a truly eastern feel to them. Isabelline & Pied Wheatears, Red-breasted Flycatcher and a range of open country larks overfilled our collective memory banks. We were left with a wonderful introduction to this diverse and historic country.

Day 1

Wednesday 12th June

The flight from Heathrow arrived a little late in Bucharest and part of the group were delayed by the slowness of the baggage coming though. For one, this would have been welcome, as the flight from Liverpool via Amsterdam meant KLM had left his bags in Amsterdam!

We soon met up with Florin and Gabi, our driver, for the long journey north to the Carpathians. The bonus for all was that we were going to be staying in a brand-new hotel just opened in Vulcan, near Zarnesti and with views to the mountains beyond. And so, after a three-hour drive, we found ourselves at our comfortable home for the next three nights.

Day 2

Thursday 13th June

After a hearty breakfast we made our own sandwiches and prepared for our first, and what was to prove and eventful day. First stop was to be the nearby Zarnesti Gorge, although on the outskirts of the town, we couldn't resist the first species of the trip as both White Storks and a Lesser Spotted Eagle were foraging in a recently cut hay field.

The gorge is in the Paitra Craiului National Park, and we stopped at the barrier to the gorge and slowly made our way up the track along the crystal-clear mountain stream. Martin quickly found the first of our targets, a female Fire Salamander swimming in the stream, and close by the first of the endemic plant species, Carpathian Leopardsbane. However, the main aim of the visit was the nesting pair of Wallcreepers on one of the vertical

limestone cliffs. Fortunately, the nest site was known and after setting up the telescope at a suitable distance, we were able to watch the comings and goings of the pair as they fed their chicks.

We walked a bit further in the gorge to a wooded open area where we found the first of our butterflies. As we were to find for the rest of the trip, numbers were dominated by Painted Ladies, a species that was undergoing a massive invasion across Europe at the time, but also included Duke of Burgundy, Mountain Ringlet and Mountain Green-veined White. We also found a beautiful flowering Alpine Clematis.

As the heat rose, we headed back towards the bus. We suddenly saw a flash of red and realised that the male Wallcreeper was hopping around at eye-level and then proceeded to bathe in the stream, giving unprecedented views to the group.

We also picked up some other species typical of these mountains, including both Firecrest and Goldcrest, Coal Tit and a couple of Honey Buzzards drifting over. A family of Peregrines, with their recently fledged young, entertained us over the gorge as we got back to the bus.

We had our packed lunch at the mouth of the gorge and now with phone signal, we learnt that the missing luggage had been received at the hotel. In the heat, we stopped for a refreshing ice-cream at Zarnesti and then headed back to Vulcan to the hotel.

The late afternoon was focused on the bear hide, and those who opted for this soon loaded in the bus and we headed off to the Stramba valley. Stops on the way were made to photograph a White Storks nest with five nearly fledged young, and then a Lesser Spotted Eagle on a telegraph pole by the road. In the valley itself we had a short walk in the hay meadows and found Red-backed Shrike, Golden Oriole and three elusive Hawfinches, but soon it was time for the main event. Picking up the ranger, we made our way to the head of the valley and the bear hide.

For ninety minutes we had a continuous view of the comings and goings of up to seven female and two male bears in the forest glade and how they interacted and fed on the maize and biscuits put out for them. It was interesting watching the behaviour of three foxes who joined the bears in the glade. They were often ignored, but occasionally chased back into the trees. After an entrancing ninety minutes it was time to leave and head back to Vulcan, however in heading through the now darkening forest one last surprise was in store, with a Ural Owl's ghostly image drifting in front of the bus and into the trees.

For the second night we sat down at 9.30 for supper and a recap of the day, and plans for the next.

Day 3

Friday 14th June

After breakfast we headed to the west of Zarnesti and the trail to Coltul Chiliilor, a monastery set in the sub-alpine zone of the Pătră Craiului National Park. The heat of the morning soon picked up and the hay meadows were alive with insects and flowering plants. Most obvious again were huge numbers of Painted Ladies, but amongst these we found some Mountain Clouded Yellows and "normal" Clouded Yellows. Orchids were a target and Lesser Butterfly, Fragrant and Bug Orchids were in evidence. We also flushed a Brown Hare from the grassland - the only one we saw on the trip.

As we climbed higher, we entered the spruce zone and soon heard the distinctive call of Nutcrackers. With a little care we soon had views of a couple of pairs as they prised open spruce cones. Here, the remainder of the birds seen had a real British flavour to them; Sparrowhawk, Lesser Whitethroat, Greenfinch and Yellowhammer were soon seen before we made our way back to the waiting bus.

We drove the short distance to the Park Headquarters and had a brief tour of the displays and photographs showing the specialities of the region. Then we headed off to the gorge east of Rasnov where we stopped for lunch. Although we found a Grey-headed Woodpecker, it was quiet for birds but a mix of *Dactylorhiza* orchids and butterflies, including Swallowtail, Large Copper, Lesser Marbled, Pearl-spotted and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries, kept us busy.

Soon it was time to head to Bran. Some of the group toured the Castle that was originally created to guard and collect taxes on the Transylvanian border. It later became a royal residence and this was returned to the Royal family after the revolution and it is currently dressed to reflect the interwar years. The remainder of the group relaxed in the grounds enjoying the tranquillity and the family of Fieldfares on the lawns. Near the castle entrance, there was also a patch of *Dianthus spiculifolius*, a Carpathian speciality that is normally found much higher.

We left on the short journey back to the hotel and had a relatively early dinner. After darkness fell, we headed out to track down the local owls. A family of Long-eared Owls were calling constantly, but we realised that they were tantalisingly out of reach in private land so we left without getting a glimpse.

Day 4

Saturday 15th June

We began the long journey to Tulcea at 8.30am and it would be nearly 6pm before we reached the mooring of our flotel on the Danube. Our first break was at a MOL garage beside the nodding donkeys of the local oil wells.

For lunch we stopped at Amaru lake, and were immediately struck by a rush of new birds with Glossy Ibis, egrets and herons all showing. In the reeds, Bearded Reedlings showed and pinged and a Savi's warbler remained elusive. Along the edges we also found a few Odonata and these were identified as Green-eyed Hawker and Variable Damselfly, the latter living up to its name, being the darker eastern form.

Later we crossed the River Danube and it became clear that the river was in full flood following heavy rain upstream in central Europe. The floodwaters had more than doubled the width of the river and we would note this later. We reached the Roman heart of the country at the village of Barbulesti and here we were shown the extravagant family houses each with extravagant frontages and enormous gates, built allegedly with ill-gotten gains.

We planned a roadside stop beside an immense lake called Hasarlac, but as we pulled up thunder warned us of an imminent storm. We still walked out to the lake shore with Gadwall and Great Crested Grebe visible and a chorus of Tree Frogs calling around us, but a couple of nearby lightning strikes suggested that we should quickly move on. So, we returned to the bus and continued our journey to Tulcea.

We arrived at the quay earlier than expected due to the curtailed stops but on arrival we noted that the boats were all riding high on the swollen waters of the Danube. However, access to the flotel had been lashed up and we were welcomed to our new home for the next four nights.

Day 5

Sunday 16th June

The day began bright and sunny with warnings of high temperatures ahead. We breakfasted and then transferred from the flotel to the smaller boat for the exploration of the delta. These were ideal conditions for viewing wildlife during our first exploration of the immense network of waterways in the delta. We headed down the Tulcea branch of the Danube before heading up Mile 36 channel and into the backwaters. The channel is lined with White Willow (*Salix alba*), Narrow-leaved Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and False Indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) giving plenty of cover for passerines. Icterine and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers were the first species we heard and these were followed by Flycatchers, both Collared and Spotted. As the channels opened up birds were everywhere and new species came thick and fast. Glossy Ibis flew by, Pelicans, both Dalmatian and Great White were found and we stopped by an enormous nest. The White-tailed Eagles had fledged but a youngster was still trying to hide in the tree. Dragonflies appeared and followed the boat, these were mainly Lesser Emperors, but Emperors were also present. On the banks Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles danced and when we hit areas of floating vegetation, clouds of Red-eyed Damselflies sprung up. The water was not free of interest as both species of *Natrix*, namely Grass and Dice snakes were seen crossing the waters.

After a hectic morning we joined up with the 'mother ship' for a late lunch and then had a siesta until 17.00. Although planned for relaxation and a period of rest, activity around the boat did not stop and the *Salix alba* around the flotel attracted Freyer's Purple Emperors, and a number of dragonflies were perched close us, most interestingly a number of Broad Scarlets in every colour hue from yellow through to brilliant scarlet as their name suggests.

As the temperature dropped, the activity restarted and back in the small boat we headed into a series of pools that were nesting sites for colonies of Whiskered Terns and surrounding the pools were both Pygmy and Great Cormorants on dead trees.

On the more open areas we found grebes. Red-necked were the most plentiful and their breeding plumage is both dramatic and one we don't see very often in Britain. In amongst these were a few Great Crested and Black-necked Grebes.

As the sun dropped lower, we returned to the flotel. Here, Fire-bellied Toads could be heard calling all around and a Moustached Warbler was found in the reeds adjacent to our mooring. We had another wonderful supper and watched the sunset over the delta. As the darkness finally fell, the chorus of Marsh Frogs became louder and louder.

Day 6

Monday 17th June

Those up at dawn had heard booming Great Bittern and had a pass by of White-tailed Eagle plus a mix of herons close to the boat. Later, breakfast itself was interrupted by first a Great Bittern flying past and then a party of 15 or so juvenile Bearded Tits around the flotel.

We headed out in the 'small boat' at 8.15am making our way along the side canal to Caraorman, an abandoned sand mining venture for rare earth metals from the sands during the Communist era. Yellow and Yellow-fringed Water-lilies were much in evidence along the canal edge, interspersed with the white of flowering Water Soldier. The canal had a mix of herons, egrets and plentiful Marsh Harriers. Ferruginous duck, which is a red-data list species was also common, showing that it is doing well in the delta.

We disembarked at the quay and walked through the village pausing at a sand bank that was in use by both Sand Martins and Bee-eaters as a nesting colony. The old industrial building appeared to be attractive to Little Owls and soon a couple were found in the collapsing roof. The ditches were full of Marsh and Edible Frogs, the number of which no doubt explained the White Storks that nested in the vicinity.

The old settling pools had become attractive to water birds and we soon were adding our first Avocets and Shelduck to the lists of species. More excitingly the area holds a colony of Collared Pratincoles and we were able to watch them both on the ground and hawking overhead like oversized swallows. With a number of gulls present, a careful scrutiny discovered three summer plumaged Pallas's Gulls, each resplendent with their black heads. The flowering thistles around the pools held plenty of butterflies and we saw a number of nectaring Silver-washed Fritillaries.

Soon enough our time ashore came to an end and we returned to our boat for the journey back to the flotel. In the areas of willows, we concentrated on finding Penduline Tits. It was simple enough to hear them, but seeing them required patience. Eventually we found a pair near a nest and they amply showed why the bird has its name, with the hanging slipper like nest in the willows.

We returned to the flotel for lunch and welcomed an Eastern Olivaceous warbler that hopped aboard. After lunch we stayed on the flotel for about an hour as we headed up to the north. We then boarded the 'small boat' and headed along the old channel of the Danube before heading north into the complex of lakes and the area of the 'floating islands'. This distinct ecosystem is formed by mats of floating vegetation and part of the buoyancy is maintained by the natural anerobic decay and formation of hydrogen sulphide gas. This area is also marked by *Salix cinerea*, white Water Lilies and Water Soldiers. Herons were especially common and we saw many Squacco Herons and Little Bitterns, but the main success was the continuing sightings of Pallas's Gulls.

We continued on our travels until c19.15 and then headed back to the flotel for another wonderful supper in the peace of the delta.

Day 7

Tuesday 18th June

The routine was set, and a number of us met for the pre-breakfast vigil on the upper deck. This morning Little Bitterns were particularly active as pairs dashed to and fro across the waterway and perched high on the reeds.

After another filling breakfast, we headed out at 8.15 for our last small boat tour. Our focus was to be on species that we hadn't seen at their best. An early stop, gave us point blank views of a party of Bearded Reedlings, including a few fully plumaged males showing their distinctive moustaches. We then moved on to find Penduline Tit, a species we had been close to on each day, but finally they wanted to perch out in the open rather than disappear upon our arrival. Heading up to Stipoc, we finally had some dry land in sight and therefore the

channel-side birds changed. We soon found Lesser Grey Shrike, a number of Golden Orioles and breeding pairs of Rollers. A wagtail drew attention and with photos we could confirm that it was a '*Dombrowski*' or Romanian wagtail, normally regarded as an intergrade between *feldegg* and *flava* yellow wagtails.

We ended our tour by arriving at Furtuna lake to witness the sympatric fishing between Cormorants and Great White Pelicans. Although from the evidence in front of us, we all agreed that this spectacle seemed to more correctly involve the mugging of the cormorants by the marauding bands of Pelicans.

We headed back to the flotel and after lunch, the boat broke its mooring and started its way back to Tulcea. We tracked back along the route taken on our first day, and most of the group relaxed and enjoyed the cruise back to base picking up some of the species we had become familiar with. We arrived back a little early, so most wandered down the promenade of Tulcea and absorbed some of character of the town before settling down to our last meal on board.

Day 8

Wednesday 19th 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 Sousliks. Butterflies were present and a Brown Argus and Meadow Brown refused to be anything more exciting. We spent some time watching the nesting Rollers and Bee-eaters in a sand bank, before calling it a day. No sooner had we decided to move on than a Booted Eagle appeared and attempted a strike on the Sousliks. It hurried off, but another eagle was found and this time was a Short-toed Eagle. In trying to get a better view we literally tripped over a Spur-thighed tortoise and also found a pair of Isabelline Wheatears.

A short distance further on, we stopped at the Somava Forest, an area of park like habitat of mainly Oak and Wild Pear widely spaced over grazed grassland. We walked through the area, picking up more Booted Eagles and then a couple of the much-sought Levant Sparrowhawks drifted over. We stopped for the Balkan Wall Lizard that Peter had found in what appeared to be a fire hearth used by the shepherds. But birds were difficult to connect with. A pair of Middle Spotted Woodpeckers just about showed, but the pair of Sombre Tits eluded most of the group so we decided to move on, but not before we marvelled at a couple of Cicadas on an oak tree. Often, they had provided the acoustic backdrop to our activities but now we could see the insect responsible.

We drove into a more wooded area and stopped by the monastery at Celic-Dere. Here Florin had a stake-out for Red-breasted Flycatcher, and after a short walk we all had views of the this 'mini-robin' as it sang in the dappled shade of the hornbeam wood. We had lunch in the area, but not before marvelling at the mimicry of a couple of singing Icterine warblers, one of which had mixed a perfect rendition of a Wryneck into its repertoire.

Fed, if not refreshed, we moved on to Macin and the granite quarry. But seeking some respite from the heat, we stopped for an ice-cream. Here the humidity suddenly spiked, and we were caught on the edge of a massive thunder storm. It was later to block our route back to Tulcea, but for now the high winds and darkening clouds delayed our progress to the quarry for a few minutes before we realised that we could miss the main portion of the deluge.

The road to the quarry across the farm land gave good views of a singing Black-headed Bunting, and of Red-rumped Swallows. A short walk towards the quarry, showed us the nearly fledged Long-legged Buzzards and our main targets of Pied Wheatear and Rock Thrush, which really needed the telescope to see well.

We left and headed back along the somewhat windy and bumpy back road to Tulcea and the guest house for the night.

Day 9

Thursday 20th June

We headed nearly 100km south from Tulcea with our immediate target being the coastal pools near Vadu. The whole area is dominated by a disused and crumbling industrial relic from the communist era. However, as is so often the case, nature has started to reclaim the pools that served the works.

Before we got to the pools, we found our first Spanish Sparrows and then carefully scanned the edge of the first pool and were surprised to find that what was initially thought to be uninspiring held a reasonable list of waders including many sandpipers, including Wood, Curlew, Marsh and Green, plus Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and a mix of breeding plumage Ruff. In addition, Common Shelduck were guiding their young through the shallows. Around the pools were areas of short turf, and these were equally liked by both Soursniks and Northern Wheatears, the latter already feeding recently fledged young.

Walking towards the Black Sea coast took us into an area renowned as one of the few European sites for Paddyfield Warblers. It was clear that the singing season had all but finished, but a few birds were present. A few brief views were had by some, but the rest were entertained by flyover Collared Pratincoles, Bearded Reedlings and a Great Bittern.

We tried one last pool and here amongst the nesting Common Terns we found a single Gull-billed Tern and a party of ten Little Gulls. Then we headed back inland 20 km or so to some steppe habitat. The majority of this area is converted to agriculture and the mix of wheat and barley was in the process of being harvested. It does, however, still hold some special birds and we quickly found Calandra and Short-toed Larks and a Quail was flushed across the road. Red-footed Falcons were attracted to the area, no doubt by the harvesting activity and they gave good views, as did a pair of Stone-Curlews inhabiting an area of short turf.

Our last stop of the day was to be at Dobrega Gorge, where the road winds through between the cliff faces. We found Long-legged Buzzard nest with two young that appeared large enough to fledge and also both Isabelline and Pied Wheatears in good numbers. Soon it was time to head back to Tulcea, our progress slowed by the poor condition of the backroads, some of which appeared to have disappeared entirely. We were all relieved to arrive back at the Guest House and an enjoyable final dinner, where the staff produced a special cake and sparkling wine for us all.

Day 10

Friday 21st June

Our final day was to be dominated by the journey back to Bucharest, however we had time for one last stop at the wetland near Saraiu, on the river that runs into Hasarlac. Top of the "wanted" list for here was Ruddy Shelduck, and finally a distant bird was found, and this proved to be the final species of the trip.

We arrived at the airport in very good time for our British Airways flight to London Heathrow. The remainder of the journeys were uneventful and the group were left with the memories of this remarkable country.

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Vulcan, view from Hotel

Species Lists

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

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

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
30	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
31	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2		1				1		
32	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								1		
33	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		3	2	1						
34	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								3	1	
35	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								2	1	
36	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1							
37	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓			
39	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1				3	3	
40	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓					1	
41	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
42	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
43	Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>									2	
44	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓		✓				
45	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						✓			✓	✓
46	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
47	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						✓			✓	
48	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					✓	✓			✓	
49	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									1	
50	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>									2	
51	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>									1	
52	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>									1	
53	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>									2	
54	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>									1	
55	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									1	
56	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>									8	
57	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>									✓	
58	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
59	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>									10	
60	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>						1				
61	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus</i>					✓	✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
62	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
63	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
64	Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>									1	
65	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
66	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
67	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					✓					
68	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
69	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					✓		✓			
71	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
72	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				✓				✓	✓	
73	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
74	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
75	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>		1								
76	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>			H							
77	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				1		3				
78	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		2								
79	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
80	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
81	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓		✓			
82	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓		✓				
83	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
84	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>		1						2		
85	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					2					
86	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	1									
88	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
89	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
90	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓	
91	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					✓	✓	✓			
92	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		5								
93	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓					✓	✓	

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
94	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				✓			✓	✓		
95	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		✓		✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	
96	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓							
97	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>			4							
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>		✓	✓	✓				H		
103	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓							
104	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								2		
105	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓	✓							
106	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
107	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
108	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
109	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
110	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>									✓	
111	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								✓	✓	
112	Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>									4	
113	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>									✓	
114	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
115	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
117	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									2	
118	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
119	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			✓		✓	H	H			
120	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	2									
121	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
122	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>					1					
123	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						1	1			H
124	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									2	
125	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H	✓	H		✓	

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			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
126	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					✓	✓				
127	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					✓			2		
128	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>				✓	H	H	H		H	H
129	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	H		H	H	H	H		
130	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			H		H	✓	H			
131	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		✓	✓		✓	H	H			
132	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		✓								
133	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓	✓							
134	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓	H							
135	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H							
136	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H					H		
137	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		2								
138	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>								✓		
139	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
140	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
141	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			6							
142	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓		✓					
143	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓								
144	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			2		H					
145	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H								
146	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>					H					
147	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					H		1			
148	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>								2		
149	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓				
150	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	✓				✓	✓				
151	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>									3	
152	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						2			8	
153	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								2	4	
154	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								3	6	
155	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
156	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>									10	
157	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

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			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
158	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓	✓		✓			
159	Romanian Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava dombrowski</i>							1			
160	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>						✓			20	
161	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓							
162	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
163	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								✓	✓	
164	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			✓							
165	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
166	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		3						1		
167	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓					✓		
168	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				✓						
169	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
170	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			✓	✓						
171	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>								✓	✓	
172	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓	✓						
173	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								1	H	
174	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>								1	1	
175	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						✓	✓		✓	

Mammals

1	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		3			1	1				
2	European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>		9								
3	European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				1				1		
4	European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>			1							
5	European Sousek	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								✓	✓	
6	Musk Rat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>					1					

Amphibians & Reptiles

1	Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		1								
2	Montandon's Newt	<i>Lissotriton montandoni</i>		1								
3	Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>					H	H				
4	Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	June									
			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
5	European Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>				H						
6	Edible Frog	<i>Rana kl. esculenta</i>						✓	✓		✓	
7	Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
8	Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>								2	1	
9	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					✓					
10	Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>			1							
11	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podachis tauricus</i>								1		
12	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>					✓	✓	✓			
13	Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessilata</i>					1	1				

Butterflies

1	European Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓							
2	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>					✓		✓			
3	Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>		✓								
4	Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓								
5	Mountain Green-veined White	<i>Pieris bryoniae</i>		✓								
6	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>								✓		
7	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓								
8	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>			✓							
9	Mountain Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias phicomone</i>			✓							
10	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓							
11	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>			✓							
12	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓							
13	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>								✓		
14	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓							
15	Duke of Burgundy Fritillary	<i>Hamearis lucin</i>		✓								
16	Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>				✓	✓					
17	Peacock	<i>Aglais io</i>				✓			✓			
18	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					✓	✓				
19	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>			✓	✓						
21	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>						✓				

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			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>			✓							
23	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>			✓							
24	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>			✓							
25	Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		✓								
26	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>			✓							
27	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓	✓							
28	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>								✓		
29	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓								
30	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria tircis</i>		✓								
31	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓							
32	Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓								

Macro Moths

1	Nine-spot Moth	<i>Amata phegea</i>								✓		
2	Humming-bird Hawk-moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>									✓	

Odonata

1	Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>					✓	✓	✓			
2	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓			
3	Eastern Willow Spreadwing	<i>Lestes parvidens</i>					✓		✓			
4	Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>				✓						
5	Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>					✓	✓	✓			
6	Common Blue-tail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓				
7	Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isocetes</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
8	Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>					✓	✓	✓			
9	Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>					✓	✓	✓			
10	Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
11	White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>					✓	✓				
12	Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
13	Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>									✓	

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			12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21

Other Invertebrates

1	Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>								✓		
2	Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>					✓					
3	Longhorn Beetle sp	<i>Morimus</i> sp		✓								



Dobrega Gorge



Heading north on the Flotel