

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

8th – 17th May 2022



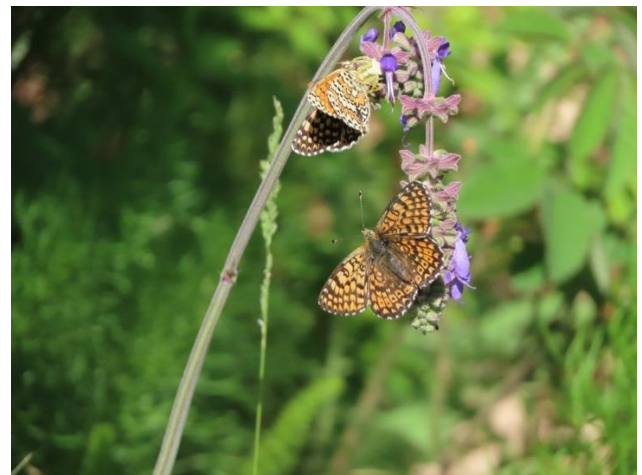
Fire Salamander



European Brown Bear



Great White Pelican



Glanville Fritillaries

Tour report by Jonathan Mycock



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Tour Participants - Jonathan Mycock (Leader) with 14 Naturetrek clients.

Day 1

Sunday 8th May

London Heathrow - Bucharest – Vulcan

Twelve members of the group met Jonathan in the departure lounge at Terminal 5 of Heathrow Airport, and we boarded our flight to Bucharest. Although 45 minutes late taking off, the pilot made up time during the flight and we touched down in Bucharest at 20.30 local time. We made our way through passport control and then collected our bags, before meeting two group members who had flown from Aberdeen, and our local guide Alex in the Arrivals area.

Once we had loaded our bags on the mini-coach trailer, we were taken straight to a lovely local restaurant (Casa Romaneasca), where we enjoyed a delicious set meal. We then made our way on the long journey to Vulcan, via Brasov, in Transylvania.

Day 2

Monday 9th May

Piatra Craiului National Park (Zarnesti Gorge and Stramba Valley)

After a hearty breakfast at the Sura Sasilor guest house, we drove out of Vulcan via the pretty town of Zarnesti to the start of the gorge. Leaving the vehicle, we slowly walked up the gorge. The first section was wooded, and we identified a number of plants associated with spring woodlands in the UK. These included Wood Anemone, Wood Sorrel and Dog Violets. Stopping at a bridge where a Grey Wagtail was singing, we spotted three Fire Salamanders on the rocky edge of the stream below. Raptors above the cliff faces included a noisy pair of Kestrels and several Common Buzzards.

We constantly scanned the cliff faces for Wallcreeper, but without any luck. Our return route produced calling Tawny Owl and Cuckoo, and a pair of noisy Jays flew across the path. As we drove back down the track, Jonathan spotted a Dipper on the edge of the stream, and we stopped the vehicle in order to admire it. We then drove back to Vulcan for a late lunch in our guest house.

In the afternoon we departed via Zarnesti for the beautiful Stramba Valley. Above the hills, Alex located a Lesser Spotted Eagle, which eventually flew overhead, together with a distant Hobby. The picturesque river floodplain was lined with Poplars and Willows, whilst the lush wooded hillsides were dominated by mixed woodland. A Yellowhammer was located in scrub within the grazed meadows. In the trackside vegetation, Wood Crickets were calling, and several large Roman Snails were found on the ground. As we proceeded up the logging track, it became narrower and at one point we had to stop while the driver helped some foresters to clear felled timber which was obstructing our progress!

Eventually we reached the bear hide location. Walking strictly in silence, and accompanied by armed rangers, we crossed a narrow bridge then wound our way up to a hide on stilts. Two individual lone female European Brown Bears and three females with cubs (two twos and a three) were observed at close range. The beautiful females had varying hues of dark to golden brown. We were entertained by the cute, playful cubs, as they climbed over

boulders and onto tree trunks. Other 'guests' at the scene included a Nuthatch and several Chaffinches. Eventually it was time to leave, and everyone agreed that it had been a magical and unforgettable experience.

Day 3

Tuesday 10th May

Coltui Chillilor Monastery (Piatra Craiului National Park) and Bran Castle

After a delicious breakfast we headed south via Zarnesti to the Piatra Craiului National Park.

We arrived in beautiful alpine scenery, a broad glaciated valley with alpine meadows and forested slopes above, giving way to steep-sided, snow-covered mountains higher up. We walked up a track, spotting White Wagtail, Tree Pipits and Lesser Whitethroats singing in the distance. A Willow Tit called from the hedgerow, while Barn Swallows fed on insects overhead. Several Orchids were found amongst the scattered Norway Spruce and Beech trees – Hyacinth Orchid in mostly off-white, but also pinkish-purple forms. We heard Grey-headed Woodpecker calling from the trees below. Some water-filled tractor ruts held a group of mating Yellow-Bellied Toads.

Unfortunately, the weather deteriorated, with torrential rain and hail! We pressed on, eventually reaching the monastery, where we were met by a friendly monk, and a cat and dog, which were mostly interested in sharing our picnic lunch! A lovely male Black Redstart was singing next to the newly constructed chapel. The rain had stopped briefly, but then returned, so we re-traced our steps downhill, re-joining the coach and making our way to Bran. We drove out of the town and stopped above a picturesque village, to take some photos of the valley below.

Bran Castle, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Romania, was of interest to all the group, so we spend nearly two hours wandering around the castle, which has been used for several Dracula films over the years. The wooded grounds held Mallard and Fieldfare.

Day 4

Wednesday 11th May

Vulcan to Tulcea

We said our sad goodbyes to the owners and staff at Salsa Salisor and set off on the long journey to the Danube Delta, stopping for comfort breaks on-route. We passed through more impressive Carpathian Mountain scenery, before reaching the more lowland landscape of the plains near Ploiesti. We stopped at two lakes to break the journey and to look for birds. The first, Glodeanu Lake, held a family of Red Foxes – a vixen and three cubs. This large lake, with islands and reedbeds, held breeding Glossy Ibis and Spoonbill, together with Squacco and Grey Herons and Great Egrets. Several Pochard were seen in flight, while the muddy shore held Ruff and Black-winged Stilts. Two White-tailed Eagles and several White Storks were seen flying over. The reedbeds held singing Great Reed and Savi's Warbler, whilst two Bearded Tits were seen briefly.

Heading eastwards through the region known as Wallachia, we saw lots of small towns and villages with small, single-story houses with vegetable gardens and vines growing. Near Harsova we called briefly at Hasarlac Lake, where a small hill next to the road provided a good viewpoint. Pygmy Cormorant, Caspian Gull, White-winged Tern and Ruddy Shelduck were seen on and around the lake. Flying over the surrounding woodland and

farmland were around twenty Bee-eaters. But the stars of the show were a magnificent pair of Red-footed Falcons, which flew very close and appeared to be nesting nearby. The beautiful male showed its dark grey plumage, contrasting with rufous 'trousers', red claws and bill.

We arrived at Tulcea at 5.45 PM and were greeted by our hostess Lily with glasses of Schnapps and Viennese biscuits. Later we had a lovely meal, followed by well-earned sleep on the floating hotel.

Day 5

Thursday 12th May

Danube Delta (Mila 36 – Lake Nebuno – Lake Fortuna – Maliuc) – Crisan – Lake Jacob

After an enjoyable breakfast we boarded a smaller boat and headed east along from Mila 36, following the fast-flowing current for nearly an hour before turning off into a narrower side channel. This led us into different lagoons and riparian areas. The first European Kingfishers soon appeared once we entered the narrower channel, while Night Herons were seen regularly, together with numerous Squacco Herons. The riparian woodland lining the channel held frequent singing Nightingales and Common Redstarts, and one Collared Flycatcher was seen.

We stopped for coffee at the entrance to Lake Nebuno, where we saw groups of both White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Ferruginous Duck, together with lots of Great and Pygmy Cormorants. Going back to the main channel, a pair of White-tailed Eagles were seen on a nest. Another large lake we travelled through was Lake Fortuna, where we encountered our first Pallas's Gulls. Here we were also able to compare all three species of Marsh Tern (Black, White-winged and Whiskered). After travelling along further side channels, we eventually caught up with our floating hotel at the village of Maliuc, where we climbed back aboard for lunch, while sailing towards Crisan village.

After lunch we had a little siesta, before re-boarding the small boat and heading along a looping side channel, coming out into Lake Jacob. Here we had good views of Red-necked Grebe, Purple Heron and Bearded Reedlings.

We eventually returned to the 'flotel' and another excellent dinner. Afterwards, some of the group adjourned to the roof top area, where there was a loud chorus of Marsh and Eastern Tree Frogs. Two lucky people had brief views of a pair of Golden Jackals running along the opposite riverbank.

Day 6

Friday 13th May

Crisan – Sulina - Trei Lezeri Lake – Lopatna (overnight)

After breakfast we travelled in the small boat along the Sulina Channel, accompanied by the songs of Great Reed, Reed and Savi's Warblers. Further on, the Caraorman Canal held three beautiful Black-necked Grebes, and some Ferruginous Duck. We landed at the abandoned glass factory at Crisan (Caraorman District), where some of the ruined buildings held a Little Owl. Bee-eaters and White Storks nesting around the village, the huge stork nests also accommodating Starlings and House Sparrows! Wet ditches and pools held feeding Lapwing, Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt and Wood Sandpiper. Sand Martins and Wheatears were also feeding near the ruined buildings.

Living in the village was a mixed community of ethnic Ukrainian and Russian people, some of their houses with gaily painted blue and yellow picket fences. A few Tree Sparrows were seen in one of the hedgerows. By late morning, it was becoming very hot, so we returned to the boat and the cooling effect of the water.

We crossed the Sulina channel to look for woodpeckers, instead finding a pair of Penduline Tits, which had hidden a nest inside a dense Goat Willow bush. A Grass Snake swam across the channel, and we stopped for a welcome cup of coffee, whilst attempting to catch a glimpse of the very shy Penduline Tits. A Lesser Whitethroat sang from the bush above our heads, and a Cuckoo flew close by. The lake beyond the channel fringe held a pair of Marsh Harriers, numerous Gadwall and some Yellow Wagtails passing overhead.

We then returned to our flotel for lunch. Later, we headed out along Mila 23 to Lakes Bogdaproste and Trei Lezeri. Hobbies, Kingfishers and Rollers entertained us as we sailed along the channels. In the lakes we found Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans feeding, groups of Pygmy Cormorants on the water and a Purple Heron flew over. There were large numbers of Mute Swan and European Pochard, and a few Pallas's Gulls, which we got quite close to, together with good numbers of Common and Whiskered Tern. A visit to a nest tree normally used by Black Woodpecker proved to be unsuccessful, though we did see a lot of Marsh Frogs at the water's edge, and several Rollers in the large riverside trees.

The evening was spent near Lopatna in a very peaceful part of the delta, in the floating hotel.

Day 7

Saturday 14th May

Canal Stipoc – Lake Baclanesti – Canal Sontea – Mila 36 - Tulcea

After breakfast we set off again in the small boat, exploring new channels, backwaters and small lakes. Many Great Reed Warblers were giving their loud song from the tops of the reeds, together with the reeling songs of a few Savi's Warblers. Lots of Pygmy Cormorants, Glossy Ibises, Dalmatian and White Pelicans flew over the boat in waves. Night and Squacco Herons regularly flew up in front of us. A noisy pair of Red-footed Falcons circled the boat, leading us to suspect that they were nesting close by. The riverside trees also held frequent singing Nightingales and Common Redstarts, which we never tired of hearing.

We eventually entered Lake Baclanesti, where large flocks of Mute Swans and White Pelicans were assembled, together with fishing Great and Pygmy Cormorants. We then travelled along Canal Sontea, where several Golden Orioles of both sexes were seen in trees beside the boat. Abandoned factories and farm buildings seem to attract flocks of Bee-eaters and the occasional Hoopoe, whilst the many dragonflies along the canal edge attracted further Red-footed Falcons. Yellow Wagtails of the race *feldegg* caused confusion more than once, since their yellow plumage and blackish heads was reminiscent of Black-headed Bunting!

Eventually we re-joined the 'flotel', where we had an enjoyable lunch, followed by a short siesta in the afternoon heat. The flotel then set off on the return journey to Tulcea, towing the small boat behind it. Marsh Harriers and White-tailed Eagles were seen quite regularly along the journey, and Whiskered Terns, together with a few White-Winged Terns, accompanied us back to Tulcea, which we reached around 5.30 pm. After dinner some members of the group accompanied Jonathan to a memorial on the outskirts of town. Having climbed the steps to an obelisk, we obtained fine views of the delta from all sides. Many local people were out to celebrate a national holiday.

Day 8

Sunday 15th May

Vadu - Black Sea coast – Babadag

Today we said our goodbyes to Lily and the other staff on the 'flotel', and joined the bus to head south from Tulcea, via the Babadag area, to wetlands bordering the Black Sea at Vadu. Partway on our journey, a female Montagu's Harrier was seen from the bus, whilst a roadside stop yielded a few Sousliks (the only place where we saw this mammal, a type of ground squirrel).

As soon as we arrived at Vadu, three Red-footed Falcons appeared near the roadside trees, giving excellent views. On the sandy banks below the road was a colony of very photogenic Bee-eaters, so three members of the group remained here for a while to take pictures. An area of shallow pools near the village held flocks of migrating waders, mainly Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints, many in their colourful breeding plumage. The weedy earth supported calling Crested Larks, which we had good views of eventually, and European Wheatears.

Passing a disused chemical factory and a café, we continued along a concrete track, with large areas of pools and reedbeds on both sides. To the north we could hear booming Great Bittern, while the pools held three handsome male Garganey and several races of Yellow Wagtail, including the Romanian '*dombrowskii*'. An area of saline mud and pools held our first Collared Pratincoles for the trip, and we spent 10 minutes or so watching these fascinating birds - almost a cross between a tern and a wader! This was despite the distraction of waves of White Pelicans flying low over our heads! Scrub-land next to the road proved to be very good for shrikes, with several Red-backed Shrikes perching in the tops of thorny bushes. Jonathan then spotted a Lesser Grey Shrike next to the following series of pools, which held over 100 Curlew Sandpipers and ca. 50 Little Stints. On the edge of the track, we found a tiny European Pond Terrapin, which we helped on its way. Climbing back into the bus, we travelled a mile further along the track, before reaching the Black Sea coast. Only a few birds were evident, including some Lesser Black Backed Gulls and Sandwich Terns.

Retracing our steps, we returned to the main road, soon stopping for a late picnic lunch by a small chapel. The roadside plantation held calling Golden Oriole and Great Spotted Woodpecker, while the chapel itself housed a vociferous breeding colony of Spanish Sparrows.

Back in the Babadag area, we climbed up a dry, wooded hillside with stands of Oriental Hornbeam, which was rich in wildlife. Butterflies included Granville Fritillary, Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow, Brown Argus and Small Heath. Amongst the dry leaf litter, we disturbed several Snake-eyed Skinks, a Slow Worm-like reptile with tiny legs, and so-called since it lacks closable eyelids. Birds included Hawfinch, at least two singing Ortolan Buntings, Red-Backed Shrike and a Booted Eagle. The splendid Wild Peony was located, together with several species of Orchid, including Greater Butterfly, Hooded and Senior, together with a few beautiful Lady Orchids. We returned to Tulcea and checked into the Ibis Hotel, which was pleasantly cool compared with the heat outside! After another enjoyable dinner, washed down with Romanian wine and beer, we completed the checklist for the day and turned in.

Day 9

Monday 16th May

Macin Hills near Greci - dry woody hillside near Saccea

Today we headed south-west, stopping briefly en-route in a village to admire a building of traditional architecture of the local Greek community, which was explained fully by our guide Alex.

Once we reached the town of Greci, we headed inland to an area of steppe grassland at the base of the Macin Hills. The seeds and insects amongst the grassy vegetation supported an associated bird community, with Isabelline Wheatear, Tawny Pipit, Crested Lark and Hoopoe all being recorded. We scanned the hilltops regularly for any raptors that might be riding the thermals and succeeded in sighting Long-legged Buzzard and Levant Sparrowhawk. Several Balkan Wall Lizards were found sheltering amongst large stones, while the many butterflies including Scarce Swallowtail, Cardinal and Queen of Spain Fritillary. The dry grassland also revealed a Spur-thighed Tortoise. As it was getting very hot by mid-day, we decided to move on, and as we did so, a beautiful Woodchat Shrike was spotted on a fence-line.

We drove northwards, then headed inland to a unique remnant area of a local type of Beech forest. Here we found a shady picnic site, where we were serenaded by the soft purring song of Turtle Dove (now a very rare sound in the English countryside), together with the unfamiliar songs of Icterine Warbler and Red-breasted Flycatcher. After lunch we managed to locate a pair of the flycatchers by a small stream.

Buoyed by another delicious lunch and a great haul of sightings, we headed back to the main road and headed east towards Isaccea. Here we stopped again, this time for a short walk up a hillside clad in widely spaced Holm Oak, reminiscent of the Spanish Dehesas, except here the grazing animals were sheep and goats, rather than black pigs!

Several singing Ortolans tried to stay hidden, but eventually we succeeded in obtaining good views, whilst a calling Green Woodpecker remained elusive. A Short-toed Snake Eagle flew low overhead, while higher up we were treated to a pair of Honey Buzzards. A fly over Hawfinch completed a set of birds of this dry hill forest.

We made one final stop on a hill near Somova, overlooking the River Danube, beyond which lay Ukraine. This provided us with opportunities for group photos, and alongside the pools below we could pick out Grey Heron, Great Cormorant, Little and Great Egrets.

Day 10

Tuesday 17th May

Tulcea – Bucharest airport

Sadly, this was our last morning at the comfortable Ibis Hotel. We loaded our luggage and said our farewells to the friendly staff, before departing at 10.00. After about 1.5 hours, we stopped briefly to view a sandy gully near Harsova, spotting Calandra Lark en-route. We visited a very busy colony of ca. 100 European Bee-eaters, which pleased the photographers amongst us! Close by we also saw a male Red-footed Falcon, two European Rollers

and a Hoopoe. Just before we climbed back onto the bus, a group of five Black Storks flew overhead, our only ones of the trip!

We stopped en-route for our picnic lunch near the town of Slobozia, and eventually arrived at Bucharest airport shortly after 16.00 hrs, when the temperature was 29 Celsius!

We said our goodbyes to our guide Alex and the driver, before heading into the airport to begin checking in for our flights to the UK.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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>				✓						2
5	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>								5		
6	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				10		✓	✓	✓		
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
8	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>								1		
9	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
10	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					8	✓	✓	✓		
11	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>						2		✓		✓
12	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					4		8			
13	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
14	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						1	1			
15	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>										5
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>						3 H	H	H		
20	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
21	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓	✓	✓			

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
22	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
23	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1	6	✓	✓			
24	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	5	4	3			
25	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
26	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					100	✓	✓			
27	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					4	10	✓	300		
28	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				2	✓	✓	✓			
29	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>									1	
31	Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								4	4	
32	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		1								
33	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>		1						1		
34	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									2	
35	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				1	6	✓	✓	✓	1	
36	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								3		
37	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				2	4		3			
38	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								1	2	
39	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓		3	✓
40	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓		✓	✓		
41	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
42	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				6		10		✓		
43	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						4		✓		
44	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				2	4	✓		✓		
45	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>								✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
46	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		✓				5				
47	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								H		
48	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								H		
49	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>									1	
50	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						2	2	3		
51	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1				1		
52	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								500		
53	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								150		
54	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				15				8		
55	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								10		
56	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
57	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					3	✓	✓			
58	Common (Mew) Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>										
59	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
60	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>					✓					
61	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
62	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				10	✓	✓	✓			
63	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
64	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					4					
65	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					2					
66	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>										
68	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
69	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	H	

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
70	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	H	H								
71	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1		dead		
72	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				2	6	✓	✓	1	2	✓
73	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					4	3	✓			
74	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
75	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				1	4	5	✓	✓	2	1
76	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
77	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						nest				
78	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>									✓	
79	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			H			H			1	
80	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		2		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
81	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				2			3	5		
82	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		1			4	6	3			
83	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>					1		✓	5	2	
84	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				1	1			3		
85	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>									1	
86	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				H	✓	6	✓	2	H	
87	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		3	2	✓						
88	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
90	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓
91	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	2							
93	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
94	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			✓							
95	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			1							
96	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
97	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	2	3			
99	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				2	6		9	H		
100	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								2		
101	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>									H	
102	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								5	6	
103	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>										1
104	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					6	4		✓		
105	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
106	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓					✓	
107	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>					✓					
108	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓			✓	✓			
109	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓				
110	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
111	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>									✓	
112	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
113	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
114	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>									✓	
115	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
116	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
117	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				✓						

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
118	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓		
119	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		✓	✓							
120	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓							✓	
121	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			✓							
122	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>									✓	
123	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
124	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓		✓			✓		
125	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓	✓							
126	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓						✓	
127	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		✓	✓							
128	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓		
129	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓							
130	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
131	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					2					
132	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>									2	
133	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			1							
134	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓			
135	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						3		4		
136	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									11	
137	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1								
138	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
139	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				✓	✓			✓		
140	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						2				
141	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓	✓							

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
142	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
143	Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>								✓		
144	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>							✓			
145	Grey-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergi</i>								✓		
146	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓								
147	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
148	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									5	
149	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		✓								
150	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
151	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								3	1	
152	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓						✓	
153	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓	✓						
154	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓			✓				
155	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			✓							
156	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>							✓	✓	✓	
157	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓							
158	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								✓	✓	
159	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					✓	✓		✓		

Other vertebrates

d = dead		May 2022									
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
MAMMALS:											
Northern White-breasted Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>			1							
European Mole	<i>Talpa caucasica</i>		✓						✓		
Common Pipistrelle	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>										
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		2	4							
European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>		12								
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>				1						
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>						1			1	
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								1		
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>		1 d								
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					2	H		1 d		
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>							1			
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES:											
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		✓	✓							
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>			10							
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>				H						
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibundus</i>				H	✓	✓	✓			
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>									✓	
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>								✓		
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podachis tauricus</i>									✓	
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitabelii</i>								✓		
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>						✓	✓			
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessilata</i>						✓	✓			

Invertebrates

		May 2022									
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
BUTTERFLIES:											
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>									✓	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>				✓						✓
Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>									✓	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			✓							
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>								✓		
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>									✓	
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>								✓		
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>				✓				✓	✓	
Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>									✓	
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>									✓	
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>								✓		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>								✓	✓	
DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES											
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>				✓						
Common Blue-tail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>				✓						
OTHER INVERTEBRATES											
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>			✓							
Common Pond Skater	<i>Gerris lacustris</i>										
Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius</i> sp.			✓							
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>									✓	
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus terrestris</i>								✓	✓	
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>								✓	✓	
Violet Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus violaceus</i>			✓							
Sexton Beetle	<i>Necrophorus vespilla</i>			✓							

		May 2022									
Common name	Scientific name	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>								✓	✓	
Bloody-nosed Beetle	<i>Timarcha tenebricosa</i>								✓		
Whirligig Beetle	<i>Gyrinus natator</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Crab Spider	<i>Misumena vatia</i>			✓							
MOLLUSCS:											
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>		✓								

Plants

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Please Note: Nomenclature contained within this list follows the taxonomic amendments, based on DNA analysis, made by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanic Garden, and following The Plant List, an internationally accepted list of vascular plant families, published and maintained by these two Institutions.		
N.B.		
[] = Introduced or Planted		
Pre-Dicots	Primitive Angiosperms	
Nymphaeaceae	Water-lily Family	
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily	Danube Delta
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water-lily	Danube Delta
Eu-Dicots	True Dicotyledons	
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	
Araliaceae	Ivy Family	
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy	Danube Delta

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Betulaceae	Birch Family	
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam	Dobrogea
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	Carpathian Mts
Boraginaceae	Borage Family	
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	Dobrogea
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family	
<i>Cardamine pentaphyllos</i>	Five-leaved Bittercress	Carpathian Mts
Campanulaceae	Bellflower Family	
<i>Campanula carpatica</i>	Carpathian Bellflower	Carpathian Mts
Compositae (Asteraceae)	Daisy Family	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Babadag
<i>Centaurea pseudophrygia</i>	Wig Knapweed	Babadag
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family	
<i>Cornus sanguineus</i>	Dogwood	
Elaeagnaceae	Sea-buckthorn Family	
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolius</i>	Russian Olive	Vadu
Fagaceae	Beech & Oak Family	
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak	Carpathian Mts
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family	
<i>Corydalis cava</i>	Hollowroot	Carpathian Mts
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family	
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill	Babadag
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	Carpathian Mts
<i>Globularia vulgaris</i>	Common Globularia	Babadag

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Labiata	Labiata Family	
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	Babadag
Lamiaceae	Mint family	
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Babadag
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Danube Delta
Leguminosae (Fabaceae)	Pea family	
<i>Ononis arvensis</i>	a Restharrow	
Linaceae	Flax Family	
<i>Linum austriacum</i>	a Perennial Flax	
Orobanchaceae	Broomrape Family	
<i>Melampyrum bihariense</i>	a Cow-wheat	
Paeonaceae	Peony Family	
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i> var. <i>romanica</i>	Scarlet peony	Babadag
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family	
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>	a Toadflax	
Primulaceae	Primrose Family	
<i>Soldanella alpina</i>	Alpine Snowbell	Carpathian Mts
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family	
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone	Carpathian Mts
<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Monk's Hood	Carpathian Mts
<i>Aconitum vulparia</i>	Wolf's-bane	Carpathian Mts
<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>	a Clematis	Carpathian Mts
Roseaceae	Rose Family	
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Quince	Carpathian Mts
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	Wild Pear	Carpathian Mts

Scientific name	Common name	Location
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	Carpathian Mts
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Carpathian Mts
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family	
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff	Carpathian Mts
Salicaceae	Willow Family	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	Danube Delta
<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	Hybrid Black Poplar	Carpathian Mts
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Danube Delta
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	Danube Delta
Sapindaceae	Maple Family	
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	Carpathian Mts
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family	
<i>Saxifraga oppositifolia</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage	Carpathian Mts
Urticaceae	Nettle Family	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Danube Delta
Violaceae	Violet Family	
<i>Viola suavis</i>	Russian Violet	Carpathian Mts
<i>Viola tricolor</i> agg.	Heartsease	Carpathian Mts
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family	
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Babadag
<i>Dactylorhiza romana</i>	Roman Orchid	Babadag
<i>Orchis sancta</i>	Holy Orchid	Babadag
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Babadag
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	Caraorman

Scientific name	Common name	Location
Monocots	Monocotyledons	
Hydrocharitaceae	Frogbit Family	
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Frogbit	Danube Delta
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water-soldier	Danube Delta
Poaceae	Grass Family	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Danube Delta
	Feather Grass	Babadag
Potamogetaceae	Pondweed Family	
<i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Broad-leaved Pondweed	Danube Delta
Typhaceae	Bulrush Family	
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	Danube Delta
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush	Danube Delta