

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

17th – 26th May 2022



Wallcreeper



Pallas's Gull



European Brown Bear



Fire Salamander

Tour report by Simon Woolley



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Tour participants: Simon Woolley (Leader) with 12 Naturetrek clients.

## Day 1

Tuesday 17th May

We had a very civilized 1155 departure from Heathrow with British Airways, and arrived in a warm and sunny Bucharest at about 1700 local time. We met up with our local guide Cristian, and our driver (also Cristian!), and headed off across the Wallachian plain, heading north past Ploiești and into the Sub-carpathian range of hills. Snow-capped peaks in the distance drew the eye, and we enjoyed a picturesque drive through mixed beech and silver fir forests, dreaming of the wildlife treasures awaiting us. Cresting a low pass, we descended into the great inter-montane valley of the Bârsa, near Brașov, and entered Transylvania in atmospheric low cloud and light rain. Disappointingly, no black coach and driver awaited us at the pass, so we instead stuck with our Mercedes van, and completed our 156km journey to the village of Vulcan, arriving at the Pensiunea Sura Sasilor before dusk.

Having checked in to this delightful, spacious alpine-style hotel ("Pension" is an understatement), we enjoyed a welcome drink of local pálinka (plum brandy) and a delicious dinner. All participants were excited to start our Transylvanian adventure! Optional garlic was provided for bedroom windows. We shall see who survives the sunrise....

## Day 2

Wednesday 18th May

All reported for breakfast successfully, and in gloomy, damp weather we headed about 45 minutes east to Zărnești Gorge. Spirits were high despite the rain, and we quickly found numerous interesting plants, including Toothwort, Alpine Snowbell, Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage and Marsh Marigold, the latter in an unusual woodland setting. A female Peregrine made repeated passes over the gorge, and Ravens put in an appearance over the towering crags.

In such grim weather, it felt like no-one really expected us to have a chance of the gorge's star bird, and repeated scans of the vast limestone cliffs produced nothing .... until the shout went up: WALLCREEPER! Amazingly, we located a male entering a crevice very low down on the slabs, and he proceeded to give us extended views at point-blank range, singing occasionally and flying up and down the gorge to collect nest material. He even dropped down onto the path and hopped about like some bizarre gothic mini-Hoopoe at one stage. What a fantastic sighting. With a spring in our step, we strolled back down the gorge to the bus, but with two more wonderful and high-quality sightings *en route*. First, a Fire Salamander was located on the track, giving everyone close-up views (a species we would almost certainly never have seen *without* the rain!). Second, a vole was seen vanishing into a crevice – to our amazement, it emerged and wandered about on the leaf litter, quite unconcerned by our presence. Research showed it to be a Montane Water Vole, a very close relative of the species we have in Britain, but now treated as taxonomically distinct. This was a very rare sighting – Cristian had never seen one before!

With the cloud showing definite signs of breaking, we returned to the hotel for a sit-down lunch and a break, before heading out again at 1500, by which time the weather was positively sunny. We explored some open meadows at Strâmba, gaining fine views of a pair of hunting Lesser Spotted Eagles, a pair of nesting Red-backed Shrikes, Yellowhammer and Corn Bunting, with Cuckoo, Golden Oriole and several warblers heard.

The van picked us up and we drove a further 15km, deep into the Transylvanian forests. In silence, with everything crossed, we descended from the bus, and trooped carefully up a narrow path, across a narrow bridge, and climbed into a cosy hide with raked seats. We had expected to have to wait for the jewel in the crown of the Carpathian experience, but we were confronted immediately by no fewer than *five* European Brown Bears – two females and their three-year-old cubs! Another female soon showed up, and shortly afterwards, unconcerned by the click of shutters and various *oohs* and *aaahs*, two males appeared, causing two of the cubs to make a rapid vertical exit up a tree! We spent an hour and a half in the presence of these awesome beasts, and descended back to the van simply elated. Eight bears!

What an amazing day. The whole group showed stoicism and grit in the face of poor weather, and we were rewarded with some truly outstanding sightings, and a remarkable start to our Romanian adventure. Roll on Thursday!

## Day 3

## Thursday 19th May

The day dawned sunny and cloudless, and we set off for the short drive to the meadows just outside Zărnești, in the shadow of the mighty Piatra Craiului mountain ridge. We slowly made our way up the 3km climb to the Monastery of Colțul Chililor, through open meadows, denser hazel coppice and mixed fir and beech forest. Several pairs of Red-backed Shrikes entertained us, and we were surrounded by the song of Tree Pipits, Lesser Whitethroats, Garden Warblers, Chiffchaffs and other woodland birds.

Several Hooded Crows entertained, along with our first White Wagtails, and everyone had sightings of a territorial Firecrest. For some, Spotted Flycatcher was added to the list. Several raptors put in an appearance, chief among them a powerful Goshawk, with a supporting cast of Lesser Spotted Eagle, Common Buzzards, Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and a frustratingly brief Honey Buzzard.

We enjoyed Spring Gentians, Common Milkwort, Green-winged and Elder-flowered Orchids in the meadows, and new butterflies included Glanville Fritillary, Red Admiral and best of all a stunning (if slightly worn) Camberwell Beauty.

Lunch was taken at the monastery, and knees were further tested by the descent! A convenient café stop reenergised the group, and we drove on to the high ridge just south-west of Bran, where we enjoyed magnificent views across the Carpathian peaks and down into the scenic valleys. Next up was a short 'cultural stop' in Bran village, where we enjoyed views of the historic Bran Castle (absolutely *not* Dracula's castle....), ice creams, and a few new species – Red Squirrel, Fieldfare, Nuthatch, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Treecreeper. Black Redstarts sang from the rooftops of the Germanic buildings.

Back at the hotel, the log was completed out on the balcony, where a brief Syrian Woodpecker called and showed briefly in the orchard garden. Tired but happy, another delicious Transylvanian dinner awaited us.

## Day 4

## Friday 20th May

Up and away after breakfast and our final goodbyes at the Pensiuinea Sura Sasilor, and a short drive to the town of Sinaia. There we climbed up to the Castle of Peles, an ancient royal palace nestling magnificently in the

shadow of the high mountains. The path led us by a rushing mountain stream, where not one but two Dippers (of the black-bellied continental form) entertained us, along with a singing Goldcrest, Jays, screaming Common Swifts and a single Alpine Swift. A Red Squirrel, much darker and with a whiter belly than the British form, showed well, and we found Perennial Honesty and a pristine Map butterfly. But the highlight was a singing Red-breasted Flycatcher, which gave excellent views for all in the dappled shade of the beech forest.

Today was overwhelmingly a travel day, interspersed by roadside coffee/comfort breaks, and an excellent extended lunch stop at a small roadside wetland on the Wallachian plain. Here, we had our first taste of Romania's wetland bird treasures: Whiskered Terns, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Purple Heron, Pygmy Cormorants, gronking Great Reed Warblers, three Garganey and a highlight in the form of a flying male Little Bittern over the reeds.

Having crossed the Danube into the region of Dobrogea, we had fleeting glimpses of birds we would be targeting later in the trip: Roller, Red-footed Falcon, Hoopoe and a few roadside larks. The strange rolling limestone steppe landscape was broken up by two transits across amazing belts of Lime forest, the largest remaining fragments of this endangered habitat type in the world.

Finally, after a long day, we reached the port town of Tulcea, and our floating hotel moored by the docks. Once settled in, we enjoyed a superb meal, with yet more Whiskered Terns fishing outside. We were at the gateway to the Danube Delta, and could hardly wait for the morning and the drama to come!

## Day 5

## Saturday 21st May

After an early breakfast, we loaded aboard the small motor launch attached to the floating hotel, and steamed off east up the Tulcea branch of the Danube, in glorious sunny weather which lasted all day. Initially we passed through willow woodlands, with Thrush Nightingales, Redstarts and Golden Orioles singing in the trees, and getting great views of Hobby, Roller, Spotted Flycatcher and a Red-backed Shrike on exposed snags. Larger waterbirds were in evidence in flight all day, with squadrons of Glossy Ibises, Pygmy Cormorants and several large wheeling flocks of White Pelicans entertaining us. In the shallows, Great and Little Egrets, Night-herons and a few Squacco Herons fed quietly or flew up in front of us. A Honey Buzzard soared overhead, but the raptor excitement level soon hit eleven with two excellent sightings of adult White-tailed Eagles perched right by the river – and we saw several more soaring in the distance.

We began exploring quieter back channels and more open lakes, too. Here we found yet more amazing birdlife, including Red-necked Grebes, super-dapper Ferruginous Ducks, many Whiskered Terns (and a couple of Black Terns), Purple Herons in some abundance and too many singing Great Reed Warblers to count! Caspian Gulls were almost ever present, but high excitement was triggered by our finding not one but two Pallas's Gulls in full breeding attire – this is a very rare European species and one much sought-after by birders!

After a light lunch on the floating hotel (interrupted by a fly-by Black Stork), and a short break (interrupted by a very close Dalmatian Pelican, unusually on the main river channel), we headed out again for more. We found Bearded Reedlings zipping about in the *Phragmites* beds, another Pallas's Gull, more Ferruginous Ducks and Red-necked Grebes, and also added Reed Bunting, Penduline Tit, Bee-eater and more to the day and trip list.

One of the other highlights was the super-abundance of Cuckoos – we probably saw over 100 during the day, including a very smart 'hepatic phase', gingery-coloured female. There was never more than two minutes between great bird sightings all day – the Danube Delta really did live up to its reputation as one of the last great wildernesses of the European continent. What a fantastic, slightly overwhelming day of Naturetrek wildlife action!

## Day 6

## Sunday 22nd May

Could we possibly do even better today? Well, in reality – yes! We saw almost all the species recorded yesterday, some in increased numbers (such as both Pelicans), and some providing better views or allowing those who had missed snap chances to catch up – examples included Hobby, Little Bittern, Roller, Hoopoe and Penduline Tit.

In the morning, we made an extended visit to Caraorman Island, the site of a glass factory that was abandoned before it even started production at the time of the post-Communist revolution. The sandy habitat and wet alkaline scrapes made for a rather different birding from the 'usual' reed-fringed channels. Waders were a big highlight, with great scope views of Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit, Little Stint, Ruff, Common and Little Ringed Plovers and several Collared Pratincoles. A group of five Caspian Terns was much-admired, dwarfing as they did a neighbouring Common Tern. Shelduck was also new, a smart singing Northern Wheatear hopped about the ruined buildings, and a fierce-looking Little Owl stood sentry under a shattered eave.

In the more open country and along the wires, a different group of species dominated – Sand Martins, Rollers, Bee-eaters and Red-footed Falcons seemed to be everywhere, and a big highlight was an aerial dogfight between a male Red-foot and a male Common Kestrel, even involving a locking of talons and a dramatic tumble through the sky!

We finally tore ourselves away in time for lunch (via our first Black-necked Grebe), but before we knew it we were out on the small boat again, exploring more canals and lakes. We did surprisingly well for woodpeckers today. First was a young Black Woodpecker in its nest hole in a huge White Poplar, quickly followed by (unfortunately brief) Grey-headed and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. More readily appreciated by all was an amazing congregation of White Pelicans (over 200 of them), attended by Whiskered Terns, Pygmy Cormorants and Ferruginous Ducks. Dalmatian Pelicans also put in several close-up appearances, as did more Pallas's Gulls. An exciting addition was made when Cristian spotted a flock of Rosy Starlings migrating rapidly past us – super-brief views, but hopefully a sign of more pink action to come in the days ahead.

We met up with the floating hotel at a lovely open spot in the reedbeds, and our dinner featured multiple distractions by fly-by herons, Marsh Harriers, pelicans, ibises and cormorants. As dusk fell, we could hear at least two Savi's Warblers singing, and finally two Little Bitterns chased about over the river and crashed into the reeds.

## Day 7

## Monday 23rd May

Our final day in the Danube Delta started brilliantly, with Black Terns feeding by the boat, Marsh Harriers performing their food-pass display over the reedbeds, and best of all several singing Savi's Warblers, one of which showed well right beside the boat.

This morning we had our last small boat adventure into the backwaters and canals – the landscape constantly changing, the birds still coming right through the morning. Although it was cooler today, so bird activity was perhaps a little reduced, we started strongly with excellent views of a family of Bearded Reedlings. In fact, we heard them (and Penduline Tits) many more times throughout the morning. A few more flocks of Rosy Starlings zipped urgently past the boat.

We were once again barracked loudly by Great Reed Warblers at every turn, overwhelmed by Cuckoos, and garlanded with herons and egrets of every available species. But the highlight of the morning awaited us in almost the last backwater we explored. A kettle of descending White Pelicans suggested a feeding site, and sure enough, we rounded a bend to find a huge gathering choking the entire channel, attended by Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Great and Little Egrets, Grey, Purple, Night and Squacco Herons. Upwards of 800 White Pelicans were gathered, cheek by jowl, many of them in peak breeding condition with reddened, inflated bare parts. Like the Red Sea, the flock parted and birds flew as we edged slowly forward, leaving us surrounded by sheer pelican madness. As we moved away, the birds gathered once more to resume feeding. This was one of those wildlife experiences which will stay with us forever – the very essence of the Danube Delta.

Sadly, we returned to the 'big boat', and after lunch, the afternoon was spent serenely being towed back to Tulcea – occasionally overtaken by some pretty enormous cargo ships, and buzzed by a White-tailed Eagle! On arrival, we took a brief cultural tour of the old town with Christian, a native-born son of Tulcea, and enjoyed a final dinner afloat as the sun set over the Danube.

## Day 8

**Tuesday 24th May**

Breakfast on the boat, final farewells to Roxy and the rest of the crew, and then off and away with the minibus to the east of Tulcea, to visit three very different sites during the day.

Via distant and rather sobering views across the Danube into Ukraine, we started at the Celic-Dere monastery, where we explored open riverside meadows and a splendid example of Pontic Hornbeam-Maple forest. A pair of Long-legged Buzzards and a Honey Buzzard soared overhead, and we grappled with the identification of a rather atypical Steppe Buzzard, a real Romanian speciality in a European context (the first of three such birds today). Hawfinch zipped about elusively, and we had tantalising views of Middle and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. More generous was a pair of Syrian Woodpeckers at a nest site, and we also worked hard to get great views of both Wood and Icterine Warblers in song. Silver-washed Fritillaries were everywhere, and we also found Scarce Swallowtail and a delightful Beautiful Marbled moth.

After coffee and cake, we drove on to Culmea Pricopan, an area of dry grassland at the foot of an escarpment of igneous rocks, scarred but not spoiled by a big quarry. We found two pairs of Lesser Grey Shrikes, and had good view of Red-backed Shrike, Corn Bunting, Spanish Sparrow and Roller before lunch, along with several Queen of Spain Fritillaries. We then scanned the rocky hills and were successful in finding our speciality No.2 – Pied Wheatear, which in Europe can only be found along the Black Sea coast. Two males performed for us: the views were distant but good! The other montane bird to be found here (at about 100m above sea level!) was tougher, but most people managed to glimpse a male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush high on the cliffs. Another Honey Buzzard cruised high overhead.

After ice creams in Greci, our final stop was at Pietrele Mariei, a fragment of lowland Pontic steppe in a sea of sunflower fields. We found a Woodchat Shrike on the way in, a rare bird in Romania which Cristian told us he does not even see annually. Hoopoes entertained us, and Crested Lark and Tawny Pipit got added to the list, but the main target (and the third super-speciality of the day) here was delightfully common and obliging – Isabelline Wheatear. We found many singing males, and even discovered two broods of newly-fledged young being fed by their parents. What a special place.

The hour's drive back to Tulcea was punctuated by a couple more flocks of urgently-migrating Rosy Starlings – and one tour participant even had a flock of 100 from their hotel balcony after we checked in at our last stop of the tour. Migration at its best!

## Day 9

## Wednesday 25th May

Our final field day in Romania began with a visit to the atmospheric Babadag Forest, a dry, open woodland of Oriental Hornbeam, Oak and Ash. While it was a little quiet in the early morning cool, we found a singing Ortolan Bunting and a smart Woodlark showed well, while a Booted Eagle and Red-rumped Swallows wheeled overhead. On the botanical front, we found five species of orchid (some were sadly a little 'over'): Lady, Monkey, Greater Butterfly, Pyramidal and Violet Limodore, Nodding Sage, Spiked Speedwell and some impressive Illyrian Thistles.

Via a coffee stop, we next headed to Vadu near the Black Sea, where we spent the rest of the day slowly exploring the various habitats on offer: dry grassland, caustic ex-industrial lagoons, reedbeds, freshwater marsh, coastal dunes – and the sea itself! An active Bee-eater colony was complemented by many wheeling Red-footed Falcons, and the first pool turned up Avocets, Curlew Sandpipers in full summer attire and Little Stints. More and more species were added – Ruddy Shelduck, numerous drake Garganeys, Rosy Starlings, Bearded Tits, Ruff, and a fly-by Eurasian Bittern, to name but a few. The highlight was a successful bit of tape-luring: a quick blast of song caused not one but three Paddyfield Warblers to respond and two of them showed well on the reed stems. Like yesterday's wheatears, this is another super-rare bird in a European context. Romania is the place to see them!

We took lunch near a big loafing flock of Common Terns, with a dozen or so Little Gulls mixed in, and then spent the rest of the afternoon among the coastal scrub and dunes, enjoying Corn Buntings and yet more Red-backed Shrikes. A seawatch session for the most-committed (some opted to paddle in the sea!) turned up Sandwich Terns and four special birds: three Dalmatian Pelicans (which, unlike White Pelicans, fish in salt water), an Arctic Skua *en route* to the Russian Arctic, some distant Yelkouan Shearwaters, and a final bizarre twist to the trip's birding. Simon locked on to a bizarre brown creature flapping slowly south: the first impression was of a tiny, long-winged Great Skua....but it wasn't. The shape and flight action were almost petrel-like, but it wasn't that either. Then the penny dropped. It was a European Nightjar! It was utterly strange to see this nocturnal bird 'migrating the wrong way' almost a kilometre out to sea, and it was flying so slowly that everyone could get 'scope views.

What a finish! Elated after yet another busy day of birds, bugs and botany, we collapsed back into the minibus, and returned to Tulcea for our last group dinner.



## Day 10

Thursday 26th May

Today was a pure travel day – up and away early, and a long and uneventful drive across Wallachia to Bucharest, ready to check-in in good time for our afternoon flight back to London.

What a spectacular, varied and action-packed trip. Thank you, Romania!

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

		May 2022										
	Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<b>BIRDS:</b>											
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>										
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					70	30	30		20	
3	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				2	10	10	10		20	
4	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>									1	
5	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>									1	
6	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				3			1		20	
7	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					25	20	10			
8	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		2		4	15	25	20		30	
9	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>									3	
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				6		12	15			
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					20	20	20		6	
12	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				2	1	h	1	2	8	
13	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				1	1					
14	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					6	10	2			
15	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				4	10	20	15			
16	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						1				
17	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					1					
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		3	3	20	1	12	5	10	12	10
19	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				25	50	50	40		15	
20	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				5	3	5	1			
21	Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>							h		1	
22	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				1		3				
23	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					50	40	30			
24	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					20	20	20			
25	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>					10	10	5			
26	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				4	25	25	20		10	
27	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				3	15	15	15		3	
28	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				5	20	20	20		8	

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
29	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					100+	400	1500+			
30	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					1	7	3		3	
31	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>				25	100	✓	✓		1	
32	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>					75	✓	✓		40	
33	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			1		1			2		
34	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		4	1							
35	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									2	
36	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			1					2		
37	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			1							
38	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				2	8	12	5		10	3
39	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>					1	1				
40	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					5	2	1			
41	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								3	1	
42	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	3	5					2		
43	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo (buteo) vulpinus</i>								1		
44	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					1		2			
45	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				3	15	1	5		1	
46	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						20			6	
47	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						10			20	
48	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				5	5	6	5		5	
49	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>						1			2	
50	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>						1			1	
51	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						2				
52	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									10	
53	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						3			2	
54	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									12	
55	Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>						3			1	
56	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>					9	8			4	
57	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				6	20	20	20		10	
58	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>									15	
59	Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus</i>					3+	5+	1			
60	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
61	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>					1	5+	✓		✓	
62	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				1						

			May 2022									
	Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
63	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						5				
64	Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>									25	
65	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				1	50	50	30		200	
66	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				40	100	100	100+			
67	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					2	9	13			
68	Rock Dove (Feral)	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
69	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					2	2				
70	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	2	10	10	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								2+h		
72	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
73	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		h	3h	h	100+	✓	✓	h	h	
74	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		h	h							
75	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						1				
76	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>									1	
77	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>		5	3	1						
78	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				250		30	10	✓		
79	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				1	5	15	10	20	10	
80	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					20	3	2			
81	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					3+	30	3	5+h	40	
82	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				3+h5	5	3+h	5	4+h	3	
83	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					h					
84	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>								1		
85	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>						1		1		
86	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			1					2		
87	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			2		6			2		
88	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						1				
89	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1								
90	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					h	2	1	1		
91	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1		2	5	2	10	10	10	3	5
92	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				1		15			25	
93	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					4	3	3	1	2	
94	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1								
95	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		2	4		1	3		20	4	
96	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								4		

	Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
			17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
97	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>								1		
98	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		h			10+h	1+h	5	2+h		
99	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2	2	2					2	
100	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		20	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
102	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		1			✓	
103	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		1	10	50	50	✓	✓	✓	✓	
104	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			1	1						
105	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1		✓	✓	✓	✓	5	
106	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		1	5	5	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	
107	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					h	2+h	h			
108	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					2	1+h	6+h		10	
109	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									1	
110	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				5						
111	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								2	2	
112	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>					40	30	40			
113	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
114	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	10	15	·	✓	✓	✓
115	Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								1	2	
116	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			1							
117	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		1	3	h	h	h	h	h		
118	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>								1+h		
119	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				5	100+	✓	✓		5	
120	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									3	
121	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					2h	2	3+h			
122	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					10h	h				
123	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					1			1+2h		
124	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					3h	h	1+h		2h	
125	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		h	2+h		h	h	h			
126	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		h	h							
127	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>			1		3	2	5			
128	Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		h	1+h							
129	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			1							
130	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				1						

			May 2022									
	Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
131	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				h						
132	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			1	2				2		
133	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		1								
134	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			1	1				1		
135	Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>							40	150	100	
136	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
137	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		5	6	5	5	5	2	5	1	
138	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			3							
139	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			2+h	2				1		
140	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			4							
141	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			1		10					
142	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1	h	h						
143	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					2+25h	2	h			
144	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				1						
145	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		2+	4							
146	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					5+h	5	10			
147	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>								1		
148	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						1			2	
149	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								40	12	
150	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								2		
151	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				2						
152	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
153	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								10	2	
154	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		1			6	10	20			
155	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava ssp.</i>				10			2	3		
156	Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>						1			6	
157	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		12	1	1						
158	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>			10		10	10	10	6	10	
159	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								1		
160	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			2							
161	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		h	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
162	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								5	1	
163	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			4	2				2		
164	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2	2		3		5		

		May 2022										
	Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
165	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			5							
166	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		1		2			4	30	20	
167	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1								
168	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>									1	
169	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					3		5		2	

## Other vertebrates

		May 2022									
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
MAMMALS:											
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>		1								
European Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos arctos</i>		8								
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		5								
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			2	1						
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								1	15	
Montane Water-vole	<i>Arvicola scherman</i>		1								
Mouse sp.	<i>Mus sp.</i>		1								
AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES:											
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>									h	
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Edible Frog	<i>Rana kl. esculenta</i>										
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibundus</i>										
					Spp. indistinguishable						
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		1								
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>			8	1						
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>									1	
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podachis tauricus</i>								2	2	
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>									1	
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>					1	1				

## Invertebrates



		May 2022									
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
BUTTERFLIES:											
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>								2		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>								✓		
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			6	1						
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			6							
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		1								
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>								1		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>								✓		
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>								1		
Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>			1							
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			2				1			
Comma Butterfly	<i>Polygonum c-album</i>			1							
Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>				1						
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>								✓	✓	
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>								10		
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		1	5							
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓							
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria tircis</i>			1							
MOTHS: (Macros)											
Cream-spot Tiger	<i>Arctia villica</i>									1	
Beautiful Marbled	<i>Eublemma purpurina</i>								1		
OTHER INVERTEBRATES:											
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>					✓	✓				
Southern Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>						✓				
Common Blue-tail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓				
Green-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>					✓	✓				
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>				2						
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>									1	
Long-winged Conehead	<i>Conocephalus discolor</i>								✓		
Hornet	<i>Vesper crabro</i>					2			1		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2022									
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>					1			1		
A Ladybird Spider	<i>Eresus kollari</i>									1	
Funnel-web spider sp.										✓	
<b>MOLLUSCS:</b>											
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>		1								

## Plants

### PLANTS:

(n.b. list partial and in alphabetical order by English name)

#### Scientific name

*Clematis integrifolia*  
*Soldanella alpina*  
*Iris sintenisii*  
*Ajuga reptans*  
*Typha latifolia*  
*Cannabis sativa*  
*Quercus pedunculifolia*  
*Symphytum officinale*  
*Phragmites australis*  
*Cornus mas*  
*Primula veris*  
*Amorpha fruticosa*  
*Sambucus ebulus*  
*Dactylorhiza sambucina*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Acer campestre*  
*Viola arvensis*  
*Gentiana sp.*  
*Platanthera chlorantha*  
*Anacamptis morio*

#### Common name

a Clematis  
Alpine Snowbell  
An Iris  
Bugle  
Bulrush  
Cannabis or Hemp  
Carpathian Oak  
Comfrey  
Common Reed  
Cornelian Cherry  
Cowslip  
Desert False Indigo  
Dwarf Elder  
Elder-flowered Orchid  
Field Bindweed  
Field Maple  
Field Pansy  
Gentian sp.  
Greater Butterfly Orchid  
Green-winged Orchid

**PLANTS:** *(n.b. list partial and in alphabetical order by English name)*

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort
<i>Onopordum illyricum</i>	Illyrian Thistle
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigolf
<i>Dactylorhiza sp</i>	Marsh Orchid
<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Mignonette
<i>Dracula simia</i>	Monkey Orchid
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam
<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	Oriental Larkspur
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip
<i>Lunaria redivida</i>	Perennial Honesty
	Polygana sp.
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolius</i>	Russian Olive
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Cabbage
<i>Periploca graeca</i>	Silkvine
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Smooth Bedstraw
<i>Prunus cerasus</i>	Sour Cherry
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Spiked Speedwell
<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Toothwort
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Tricolored Pansy
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limodore
<i>Eleocharis dulcis</i>	Water Chestnut
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water-soldier
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water-lily
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Wild Clematis
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	Woodland Sage
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody Nightshade

**PLANTS:**

*(n.b. list partial and in  
alphabetical order by English name)*

**Scientific name**

*Achillea millefolium*

*Iris pseudacorus*

*Nuphar lutea*

**Common name**

Yarrow

Yellow Flag (Iris)

Yellow Water-lily