

# Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th – 19th May 2023

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Red-footed Falcon



Penduline Tit



Common Squirrel



Levant Sparrowhawk

Tour report by Andy Bunten. Images by Dave Watson

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Tour participants: Andy Bunten and Christian Sandu (leaders) with 13 Naturetrek clients

## Day 1

Wednesday 10th May

The journey from Heathrow to Bucharest was uneventful for all but one couple who sadly got held up by an incident of the M25 and had to get a later flight and join us later in the early hours of Thursday morning. For the rest of the group, it was a straightforward meeting with Andy and Christian at the airport and then a drive north west across the agricultural lowlands before a gradual rise past the ski resorts of the mountain area.

A few things were seen as we sped along – Red-backed Shrikes perched on fences and low bushes and, most notably, a flock of some 100 White Storks feeding in a large field where a farmer was churning the turf with a tractor.

We arrived at our lovely guest house in time for a welcome Schnapps and even more welcome meal before discussing our plans for the next day and then retreating to our lovely comfortable rooms.

## Day 2

Thursday 11th May

A few people took a pre -breakfast walk from our charming lodge around the village of Vulcan, finding some good birds to start our trip proper - a couple of European Bee-eaters, a Syrian Woodpecker plus singing Lesser Whitethroat, Serins and Black Redstarts. Not a bad start!

After breakfast, we headed off to the dramatic Zarnesti gorge within the twenty-mile limestone ridge of Piatra Craiului National Park. A Dipper greeted us as we drove by the stream and Grey Wagtails bobbed among the trees. We emerged from the bus and were immediately met by the song of a Red-breasted Flycatcher. We searched the trees in vain for the bird but were rewarded instead with close views of Marsh Tits. A Honey Buzzard appeared over the ridge by which time our flycatcher had changed sides and we were able to find him perched on a horizontal branch. A young bird with little red, just a hint of an orange breast, it still belted out its song very energetically.

Various spring flowers were out, and the Alpine Bells and Wood Sorrel combo was particularly striking with Yellow Leopardsbane perfectly setting it off.

We were watching distant Chamois through the telescope when a Peregrine Falcon circled around and then just a little later a few people got a brief distant glimpse of a Wallcreeper as it flipped its way, butterfly-like, away along the edge of a limestone wall. We thought that was our lot but when we continued a little further we found the bird again and were treated to twenty minutes of magic.

The Wallcreeper flew from one side of the gorge to land very close to us and start collecting nest material. It was in hot pursuit of a small ball of fur or fluff, like a small tumbleweed, that rolled along in front of it. It picked away at this before flying back across the gorge and into a crack on the sheer wall – a nest!

Both the male and female bird then appeared and flicked around before the female once again came to within 30 yards of us attacking its little ball of fluff and looking as though it was pursuing a small grey vole around on the ground.

We then noticed that above us more nest building was happening as Crag Martins were constructing on an overhang some 100 metres away over our heads. To cap it all, a couple of Alpine Swifts whizzed around the area – perhaps also establishing a nest site in this productive site.

It been cool earlier but the emerging sun brought out Brimstones, Speckled Woods and Orange-tips and shone on the Yellow Anemone and Lungwort.

We walked back to our bus, hearing the Red-breasted Flycatcher again, and then drove back to our lovely guest house for a four- course lunch.

We left the hostel to head to the Stramba Valley passing a field with at least 50 Northern Ravens in it feeding as the farmer turned over the soil. We could hear Common Whitethroat and Golden Oriole and eventually got good, if distant, views of the latter as it flew across us and landed in a tree long enough for us to get a telescope on it. A lovely male. The meadow was full of lovely flowers with occasionally strongly purple Green-winged Orchid dotted around. A very distant Lesser Spotted Eagle appeared on the horizon and then a few much closer and very smart Red-backed Shrikes, including a group of three perched on a fence compound.

There seemed to be some raptor movement as several Common, and one Steppe, Buzzards were seen as well as a brief view of a hovering Short-toed Eagle. We watched a Great Spotted Woodpecker loop its way into a dead tree as we boarded the bus to take us to the bear hide. One more raptor, another Lesser-spotted Eagle, was seen fairly well from the bus as we bounced down the track to meet the ranger and progressed to the elevated bear hide.

A couple of Brown Bears were already present as we arrived, and we spent the next hour and a half being entertained as various bears came and left the stage in front of us – exiting both left and right. Watching their general interactions was fascinating but we didn't expect to see mating activity. It was mating season though and a male was proving very interested in a clearly receptive female. After some fortifying food they began mating more-or less straight outside the hide before moving a seemlier distance away behind some trees to continue.

Then it was time to head home and as we did so the Roe Deer had made an appearance and we saw several, including a beautifully coloured chestnut buck which chased away an approaching potential rival.

## Day 3

Friday 12th May

Once again, a few people had a pre-breakfast stroll on this cool, but bright, morning. European Serin, Common Buzzard, Whinchat, Garden Warbler and Black Redstart were among the birds seen.

After breakfast we made our way to the northern foothills of the Piatra Craiului National Park to make the gradual climb a few hundred metres to the Coltul Chiliilor Monastery. There was a cold wind blowing as we made our way through the sheep pasture and scrub and this kept the birds down, though a Tree Pipit did brave the conditions to call from a tree-top. Once in the shelter of the trees we began to find more of interest with Lesser Whitethroat singing loudly and a Goldcrest less so. A Common Firecrest was picked up, but birds of the morning so far were two lovely Collared Flycatchers which showed quite well initially before moving into the back of a Hazel bush. On the lower slopes the Cowslips were beginning to go over but higher up they were still flowering well together with the paler Oxlips, many beautiful purple Alpine Bells and a good number of Elder-flowered Orchids -both the

pale yellow and the light purple types. A Spotted Nutcracker called but remained annoyingly out of sight. We walked past a damp area where a mass of Marsh Marigolds stood out, their golden flowers like so many rich egg yolks. As we reached large gated entrance, a pair of sub-adult Red Crossbills were seen low down on the concrete base of a seat, apparently finding some sort of minerals as they remained there for some minutes giving excellent views.

At the monastery we walked up to the cave shrine through some beech and spruce woodland where a Wood Warbler trilled provocatively, and a Willow Tit gave a single sneezing call.

We lunched in this lovely spot with a Eurasian Bullfinch seen briefly, with Northern Ravens croaking sepulchrally overhead and with the field opposite alive with the different yellows of Oxlips, Cowslips and Yellow Anemones. On our way back down we caught a good view of a Willow Tit and a very brief one of a Spotted Nutcracker shooting through the trees. We had a good view of a Common Firecrest and examined some impressively large (and recent) bear tracks in the mud before regaining our bus and heading to Bran.

Here a few people went round the castle and the lovely grounds while the rest walked around Bran Park where breeding Fieldfares, Common Redstart, European Serin and Goldfinch were seen and the village where a White Stork's nest stood prominent. We then left this small town with its castle dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, but associated with Vlad the Impaler and used by Bram Stoker for his anti-hero Dracula – the name coming from that given to Vlad's father 'Dracul' - although its links are somewhat tenuous to both the book and Vlad.

Then it was for our final day in the lovely guest house with yet another large and filling meal.

## Day 4

## Saturday 13th May

Today was our transfer day from Transylvania to the Delta, but before we left our morning walks produced various goodies included Cirl Bunting, Hawfinch, Red-backed Shrike and, of course, Black Redstart. We then headed off south and east, passing by some very alluring garden gnome emporia at which, sadly, we were unable to stop.

At a service station stop we found Yellow Wagtails, Red-backed Shrikes and a Eurasian Hoopoe.

Our next proper stop was at Lake Amaru where we discovered that a fence had been erected within the last week which restricted our options somewhat. However, we still found Whiskered and several White-winged Terns, flashing white, over the lake. Glossy Ibises were flying around too as we circled the lake looking for a better area to enter. In the end we set up back by the road and had more excellent views of Whiskered Terns as they dipped and caught fish and numbers of Pygmy Cormorant and Glossy Ibis settled by the pond edge,

Northern Lapwings flipped in the distance behind the pond, Purple Herons flew across the reed beds while the Great Reed Warblers were positively flagrant in their showiness at the top of the Phragmites. A Little Bittern appeared and flew passed us as a small number of European Bee-eaters flew in the opposite direction. Great Egrets flopped out of distant reeds while a small flock of Bearded Tits zipped, calling, close by before disappearing into some tall Phragmites. Add Wood Sandpiper, Squacco Herons and Great Crested Grebe and we'd had a great stop despite the fence!

We continued Eastwards with White Storks and Marsh Harriers in the fields before our next stop at the lake of Chiolul Hasarlac.

This lake was full of action - Ruddy Shelduck with chicks, Black Terns flipping over the water, Ferruginous Ducks with their mahogany plumage diving for food, Great Crested Grebes chasing each other across the water. Little Bitterns appeared and flew low over the reeds while behind us a Little Owl bobbed and watched us from its roof top perch. Two huge White-tailed Eagles flew over the lake, Black and White-winged Terns dipped into it with Ruff and Curlew Sandpipers picking around its edges.

A Savi's Warbler song rivalled that of the hidden tree frogs, but was outdone by the stentorian song of the great Reed Warblers. A Short-eagle Eagle put in a distant appearance and even more distant were a group of Red-footed Falcons perched in dead trees way on the horizon. Telescopes are useful things.

We drove on crossing the wonderful Danube, our first view of this river which already been through 10 countries by the time we laid eyes on it.

A few Turtle Doves flew up from the fields as we approached Tulcea and a group of 12 European Bee-eaters and European Roller guided us in to the town and gave us a small inkling of the delights to come as we joined our lovely floating hotel which was to take us deep into the heart of the delta.

## Day 5

## Sunday 14th May

It was a sunny and warm morning as we rose and boarded the smaller boat heading east, initially, on the Tulcea Branch before heading north along smaller channels. We had early views of European Roller, a bird that was to become such a regular sighting later that we stopped mentioning it! Thrush Nightingales belted out their song from the surrounding Willow thickets with Common Redstarts doing the same from the tops of the trees. Common Kingfishers called and darted in front of us like little bolts of blue and orange lightning and both Pygmy and Great Cormorants adorned the surrounding trees. Squacco Herons were being sighted regularly together with Little Egrets, Grey Herons and a few Purple Herons and Great Egrets. Overhead we were seeing whirling flocks of Black-headed Gulls and various terns -mainly Whiskered but with White-winged in there too. Red-footed Falcons were circling around also, we assumed, busily catching the abundant flying insects.

We had seen a distant White-tailed Eagle high in the sky, but after an hour we came upon a magnificent bird perched on a dead tree which allowed us within 30 metres or so before deciding it was time to move. A fabulous sight and one we were lucky enough to repeat regularly this morning finding eagles, it seemed, at just about every turn. A wonderfully smart Collared Flycatcher sang squeakily from a low bush and posed long enough to give us very good views. Common Cuckoos were plentiful dashing across the river in front of us with a few rufous morphs among them and the air was full of their calls with an occasional bubbling call of the female thrown in for good measure.

Gazing skyward we saw small groups of both White and Dalmatian Pelican and quickly picked up the distinctive underwing patterns. Eurasian Sparrowhawk, European Goshawk and, of course, White-tailed Eagles were also up there and one's eyes were torn between the low bushes and blue sky.

We passed a few smaller lakes where we found both Red-necked and Great Crested Grebes and later, while crossing Lake Fortuna, also saw six Black-necked Grebes. Small numbers of Glossy Ibis were flying over the marshes with little flocks of European Bee-eaters appearing from time to time.

We did well for snakes seeing two Dice Snakes swimming in a leisurely fashion passed us and a Grass Snake which much more Mark Spitz-like as it shot across our bows.

We kept on the Sontea channel, crossing Mile 36 as we consumed our coffee and admired the odd smart Black-crowned Night Heron that flopped across in front of us before we shuddered to a halt to try to get a better view of a Black Woodpecker that had clamped itself to an old Willow Tree.

Heading across an amazingly still and calm Lake Furtuna, we saw hundreds of Mute Swans as well as Black, Whiskered and rasping Common Terns with fabulous views of glowingly pink White Pelicans.

Heading back towards our floating hotel, which had moved further down the Sulina Branch, we indulged in a European Roller fest seeing well over twenty birds, their blue and chestnut colours standing out in the dead branches where they perched. At one stage we had European Bee-eaters and Rollers both in the same binocular view – fantastic!

Back at our hotel we tucked into a lovely lunch of Sarmalute (stuffed vine leaves) whilst watching for wildlife from the panoramic windows. Then it was a snooze for some and seeing Golden Jackal for others until we re-boarded the small boat at 16.30 and headed off back up the channel.

We noticed a Red-backed Shrike and, while watching that, drifted passed a bird we didn't quite see clearly. Retracing our wake, we saw it was a Bluethroat which stayed close for quite some time and sang nicely for us. It was then joined by a second bird and we were even able to get a telescope on it and see its beautiful colours very clearly. While at this spot, we saw a couple of Yellow Wagtails including a lovely black-headed sub-species.

We sailed into a lake which was full of terns, mostly Black, dipping and twisting low over the water. We discovered the reason for their abundance a little later when a swarm of small dipterids swept onto our boat making opening one's mouth a dangerous occupation. We were picking up more Western Marsh Harriers now including a second-year male which came very close and a lovely Purple Heron also did an aerial excursion close to us - happy photographers.

Golden Orioles flew passed, Grey-headed Woodpeckers called and, once again, European Rollers shone gloriously in the low strong sun. We turned into a narrow channel and parked the boat to examine a couple of White and one Dalmatian Pelican and, once again, see the differences between these two species. A Penduline Tit called nearby, and a Bearded Reedling did the decent thing and showed itself, even if only very briefly. A pair of Hobbies shot around the top of a line of Willows putting the fear of God into a few Common Starlings. We had another excellent view of a couple of Golden Orioles and watched a small group of mahogany-coloured Ferruginous Ducks.

Then it was time to go back to our floating hotel, Barn Swallows zipped passed us and some even flew through our small boat. Fire-bellied Toads poop-pooped in nearby fields, Chiffchaff, Common Cuckoo and Thrush Nightingales serenaded us as we drifted back in the lovely warm sun in time for another wonderful meal.

## Day 6

## Monday 15th May

Another beautiful morning and a group of us gathered on the top deck we spent the first ten minutes of the day listening to Golden Oriole, Common Cuckoo, Savi's Warbler, booming Bittern, Cetti's Warbler (which had been at it all night), Lesser Whitethroat and Grey-headed Woodpecker. In addition, we saw White-tailed Eagle, European Roller, Eurasian Hoopoe, Squacco Heron, Common and Whiskered Terns, Pygmy Cormorants, Western Marsh Harrier, Great and Little Egret, Ferruginous Ducks, five gloriously adult plumaged Pallas's Gulls and to cap it all a Dice Snake hunting for frogs. Not a bad 15 minutes' worth.

Neil had brought his travelling moth trap and had shown us some of the capture which included a nice Eyed Hawk Moth but better was to follow as we found a huge Greater Peacock Moth that had probably also been attracted by the light of the trap.

After all this excitement, we clambered on board our small boat and set off to the village of Caraorman, to a proposed glass factory never completed when the Ceausescu regime collapsed in 1989, and now abandoned, leaving a mosaic of half empty buildings and a series of freshwater pools within the sand on the edge of the village. On the way we had fantastic views of a group of Great Cormorants and White Pelicans in a little fishing flock.

On reaching the village, we continued our serpentine luck with two more Dice Snakes basking in the sun above a small pool. Bee-eaters were calling and swooping everywhere, and European Rollers were dotted along the wires. It was great to see four Turtle Doves fly up from the low vegetation and to get some fantastic views of Red-footed Falcons including one gorgeous male hovering directly above us.

We walked around the low bushes to the almost continuous accompaniment of rattling Lesser Whitethroat and found various waders in the pools including Curlew and Wood Sandpiper, Little Stints, Pied Avocets and a single Eurasian Curlew. Red-backed Shrikes lurked menacingly in the bushes and one was singing; an incongruously melodious, weak little song.

We ended our trip to the village as we had begun it with a snake. Another Dice Snake but this a very young one sunning itself on the path. It surveyed us with motionless suspicion for some time before curving off under our feet and away to the safety of the vegetation.

We reboarded our boat for some delicious coffee and headed off along some new channels.

A Lesser Grey Shrike perched up on a low willow and we were hearing Penduline Tits quite regularly getting occasional glimpses as they dashed over the reeds. We found a couple of the astonishingly intricate pendulous nests of these little birds one of which was in use and we were able to watch transfixed as a bird dived into its home carrying nest material before accelerating out again having done its home improvements.

Banded Demoiselles had appeared now, accompanying us along the narrow channels and the sight of an odd high raptor brought out a lively conversation and debate. In the end we settled for an unusually pale Lesser Spotted Eagle.

A lovely lunch at the hotel boat was followed by a short journey to our next destination during which a few people picked up a couple of Lesser Grey Shrikes and a Golden Jackal and then we headed off for an exploration of a series of lakes within the delta north of Crisan. The usual mixture of Golden Orioles, Garden Warblers and Common Redstarts was suddenly enlivened by Des's sharp eyes who spotted three very cuddly looking Tawny Owl chicks lined up along a branch.

We cruised along with more Common Cuckoos, Eurasian Hobbies, European Bee-eaters and a brief view of a Spotted Flycatcher before we found a predatory Lesser Grey Shrike lurking in a bush and a couple of Red-necked Grebe skulking in the rushes.

We drifted in the lovely sunshine catching up with lots of familiar friends and lingering in a lake to indulge in a wonderful tern extravaganza with Black Terns dipping right by the boat, Whiskered Terns rasping above us and the odd, absolutely beautiful, White-winged Tern giving cameo appearances centre stage. Fantastic! The show was concluded by a young White-tailed Eagle flying over and we made our way back to our floating hotel for more magnificent food, the list (of course) and more fun and jollity afterwards.

## Day 7

**Tuesday 16th May**

We rested overnight in a jewel of a place with pelicans, terns and grebes; warblers, tits and Hirundines. The Marsh Frog chorus was phenomenal, and they had staying power too belting out their songs all night and still calling as we left.

The early morning team saw Neil's moth haul which included the wonderfully understated Reed Leopard with its wings seemingly too small for its body and, once again, a Giant Peacock Moth had clamped itself nearby -this time in the reeds. The usual suspects were seen and heard Common Cuckoos dashing around White and Dalmatian Pelicans fishing, Bearded Tits flicked over the reeds and a Savi's warbler trilled away from the top of a Phragmites stem.

As left for our last small boat exploration of the delta we sailed gently into the frog soup and watched as hundreds of these noisy amphibians leapt and swam among the floating mass of vegetation.

At a small channel we turned off into a Monet's Garden of White Water lilies and had our best views yet of Red-necked Grebe with two loafing birds gently bobbing on the water. For perfect comparison two Great Crested Grebes were nearby – one with young on her back. Water Soldier, an indicator of good water quality, was emerging everywhere and Water Mint too was widespread. Whiskered Terns with their suppressed sneeze calls flew overhead and a male and female Bearded Tit gave us reasonable views as they perched on the edge of the reed bed before flying off across the water. A few Ferruginous Ducks were springing from the water, Squacco Herons were everywhere and our first Hobbies, European Rollers and White-tailed Eagles were being seen.



We found another Penduline Tit's nest and, as we coasted past, first one and then another bird emerged from this amazingly perfect little structure.

A Roe Deer was seen, and three European Pond Turtles slid gracefully into the water as we gently came to a halt by some lovely, and lively, water meadows with cows grazing contentedly. In the mid distance, the air was filled with terns bobbing up and down low over the water. Half a dozen Garganey took off and Yellow Wagtails galore flipped around the riverbanks. In the wet meadows Glossy Ibis, Little Egrets, Black-winged Stilts, Lapwings and Squacco Herons all stalked their prey items.

A little further on a second stop produced a Lesser Grey Shrike, a gorgeous salmon-pink Eurasian Hoopoe, more Glossy Ibis and a magnificent view of a Penduline Tit perched on the top of a broken reed stem. A Common Redstart also posed perfectly for us on a dead tree top and a little later our best view so far of a Grey-headed Woodpecker was had as it, too, surveyed the world from the top of a dead tree.

We were nearing our mother ship as a massive White-tailed Eagle, previously unseen, swooped down from its perch and flapped away just in front of us its white tail shining in the sun.

After our customary full and delicious lunch, we climbed onto the observation deck as we sailed our way back to Tulcea.

More European Rollers, more European Bee-eaters, more nearby, White-tailed Eagles, more Lesser- and Red-backed Shrikes, more Bearded Tits and, in addition, a Wryneck was heard. A female Goldeneye seen and a new bird for the trip - Black Kite.

We arrived at Tulcea shortly after 17.30 and had a gentle stroll into town under Christian's guidance before our last supper on this magnificent floating hotel.

## Day 8

## Wednesday 17th May

It was a still warm morning and tiny spiders on gossamer threads were drifting across the observation deck of our hotel now safely moored in Tulcea. Whiskered Terns called, Caspian Gulls washed in the river and Barn Swallows rested and twittered on the ship's ropes.

Today we were to say our sad goodbye to the Delta and head south along the Black Sea coast. On our way down we saw European Roller, Booted Eagle, Rosy Starling and a pair of Turtle Doves.

We arrived at Babadag Forest and strolled amongst the open low trees. Painted Ladies, Glanville Fritillary and Brown Argus were basking in the sun, and we found Solomon's Seal, Spiked Speedwell and Nottingham Catchfly. Globe Flowers were dotted around but the show was stolen by some very showy deep red Peonies. Ortolan Buntings sang from bush tops and a flock of European Bee-eaters glided overhead with their characteristic 'pruitt' calls. A couple of Antlions, with large transparent wings, whirred passed and we found a collection of splendid orchids. Lady's, Monkey, Greater Butterfly and Green-winged.

The abundant Nodding Sage attracted the insects and reptiles were scuttling about everywhere – Green and Balkan Wall Lizards, Snake-eyed Skinks and an Aesculapian Snake. Violet Birdsnest Orchid was emerging near the Peonies, a lovely Solitary Clematis was found, and a wonderful Bronzed Glandular Bush Cricket was found and closely examined until it nipped its captor and was quickly returned to the ground.

From Babadag, we drove further south, had a quick lunch stop near a big Spanish Sparrow colony where we also found a couple of Golden Orioles, more European Bee-eaters and Spotted Flycatcher, before continuing to our final stop – Vardu.

As we approached this wonderful wetland area, we saw a Calandra Lark, Red Fox and a group of Yellow Wagtails and Crested Larks but stepping out of our bus we were blown away by the sight and sound of loads of European Bee-eaters at their nesting colony and, very nearby, Red-footed Falcons perched on wires.

The nearby pools held lots of Little Stints and gorgeously chestnut-red Curlew Sandpipers. Closer examination revealed Broad-billed, Common and Marsh Sandpiper together with Little Ringed Plover and a Temminck's Stint. Northern Wheatear and Eurasian Hoopoe were found on the surrounding drier land and Marsh Harriers glided around every skyline.

As we moved to another, larger, area of wet grassland and pools we saw a couple of Souseliks, one on clear sentry duty and stretched up vertically in a passable Meerkat impersonation.

This different area of wetland was amazing, and full to the brim with birds. There were huge numbers of Garganey, mostly the very smart males, feeding in the shallow pools. We searched the reedbeds on the other side of the road for warblers and our key sought after species, Paddyfield Warbler, made an appearance. This warbler, with a distinctive eye stripe, popped up to the top of the reeds long enough to provide excellent views. To cap this a couple of Pallas's Gulls also flew overhead and a few Bearded Tits put in a guest appearance.

Back on the other side of the road with the extensive pools we were having a field day with the waders, as was a Hobby which swept passed and put the fear of God into a host of smaller birds. Once they'd settled again, we surveyed large numbers of Little Stints, Black-tailed Godwits, gorgeously summer coloured Curlew Sandpipers, Ruff, Black-winged Stilts and an incredibly smart black and white Grey Plover. Together with the Garganey there were Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Pelicans, swans and a rather strange duck that was at least three-quarters Eurasian Wigeon. We climbed up a few feet to overlook another pool with an island full of Common Terns and one Black Tern. A Common Redshank probed around along the edge of the island while in the distance in the wader fields we found a pair of settled Collared Pratincoles.

With extreme reluctance we dragged our way away from this exceptional site and made our journey back to our final and very welcoming guest house in Tulcea where we settled in, had yet another lovely meal and completed our ever-bulging list of sightings.

## Day 9

Thursday 18th May

This was sadly our last full day in Romania and the weather was determined to celebrate it with a glorious sunrise and a hot sunny day ahead.

After breakfast we made our way westwards, effectively following the line of the Danube, and made our first stop in an open, well-grazed woodland of oaks, Silver Lime and Wild Pear. A flock of sheep and goats were driven passed as we started our walk hearing a probable Middle-spotted Woodpecker and seeing some distant Booted Eagles and Common Buzzards.

An Ortolan Bunting sang in the distance but almost drowned out by the sound of the Field Crickets and definitely by the irritated barking from the large dogs guarding the livestock.

The Thyme threw up a lovely smell as we walked through the dry grassland and the strong sun had drawn out Brown Argus and Painted Ladies. A couple of Woodchat Shrikes gave good views as did an obliging Isabelline Wheatear perched upright on a low stump. A European Sousek viewed us suspiciously as we left, and two Red-rumped Swallows entertained by swooping low and drinking from the small stream as we boarded our bus.

Our next stop was the woodland area around the monastery site of Celic Dere. A Common Nightingale sang while our eyes were drawn upward first to a Common Buzzard and then to a Northern Goshawk high overhead.

We were hearing Hawfinches calling but only getting fleeting views when a small group flew directly overhead and everyone could see their large white wing bars and massive heads and beaks. Our attention was almost immediately on another bird of prey – this time a wonderful view of a female Levant Sparrowhawk as it flew quite close across our path. We had good telescope views of a European Turtle Dove and as we made our way to the Hornbeam Wood a Water Scorpion was found in the small stream.

In the wood a Wood Warbler was trilling away and an Icterine, classically squeaky, was also singing in the middle distance. Red-breasted Flycatchers had been singing and finally we managed to track one down getting great views and even being able to put the telescope onto this lovely little bird.

We finally managed to track down an Icterine or two as well as a singing European Treecreeper and a small wet area produced drinking Goldfinches, Eurasian Blackcap and a Marsh Tit. A magnificent Longhorn Beetle (*Morimus funereus*) stood guard on the path as we made our way to an open glade where we settled down to have our picnic lunch.

We ate to the accompaniment of Song Thrush, Common Chaffinch and Wood Warbler with an occasional dash out into the open area to see a Black Stork and a Booted Eagle which drifted over.

Our final port of call was the National Park area of Muntii Macinului where we arrived around an hour later. As we negotiated the rough gravel track the odd European Bee-eater swept alongside, a European Roller perched like a turquoise jewel in the brown earth and a Balkan Green Lizard watched us from the verge.

Lesser-grey Shrikes perched on the wires nearby and an Isabelline Wheatear sat upright on a low stone.

The hot sun had brought out the butterflies with Green-underside Blues, Painted Ladies and Glanville Fritillaries were close to the bus as we made our way along the track and up the gentle incline.

Another Woodchat Shrike appeared on a low bush and a small Balkan Wall Lizard risked its life on a sun-drenched rock.

We searched the rock face in front of us for Pied Wheatear finally finding a distant bird which we were occasionally able to get into the 'scope – it was a long way away. Better views were had of a dashing male Levant's Sparrowhawk which, although still a way away, was well illuminated and showing its pale underside and dark tips to its wings as it flew in front of the quarry face,

The heady smell of a Russian Olive greeted us we wandered uphill with lizards and butterflies drinking in the glorious sunshine. More excitement as we found a reasonable sized tortoise making its way through the vegetation and a rather undignified hoisting of it aloft and examining its nether regions revealed it to be a Spur-thighed Tortoise.

More lizards, more butterflies, more Carpenter Bees and a few immense Bronzed Glandular Bush-crickets were our companions as we made our way to the bus and thence back to our guest house for our final supper, a roundup of the day and of the last nine days before we got our packing done for tomorrow's departure.

## Day 10

Friday 19th May

We left in glorious hot sun the following morning and headed off west to the airport.

It was a pleasantly unremarkable trip with a few nice birds seen including Ruddy Shelduck, European Bee-eater, around 80 White Pelicans and our first Little Grebes. We avoided the temptation to buy one of the fish being held up by the roadside fishermen as we crossed the Danube and continued remorselessly west to arrive at our airport perfectly on time.

We scrambled out of our bus but not before we'd said our heartfelt thanks to our fantastic local guide Christian and our very competent driver Stolli.

Christian and my thanks are also due to the group whose sense of fun, significant wildlife knowledge and keen eyesight added immeasurably to the pleasure of the trip. It had been a great and memorable holiday.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				6	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				2		4		✓		
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				10						2
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				1		5	6	50		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>								2		
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					4		4	6		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		4		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>								10		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				4	4	4	2	2		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				6	6	✓	12	6		
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>					1		1			
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	6	1	2	2	✓	2
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		2								
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	1	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					1		4			
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				5		4		2	2	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>								✓		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				1			1			
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓		✓	✓		
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					8	4	4			
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				10	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					6		2			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>					1	4	10	12		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						6		6		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				12	2	6	✓	✓		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>								1		
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>						1				
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						1		✓		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				1				✓		
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				1		1		✓		
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>								1		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								1		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						20		✓		
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>								1		
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>								2		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								2		
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>								1		
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				1		2		2		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								1		
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>								2		
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	6	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2023										
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>					1						
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					2	10	1	3			
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				1	20	✓	✓	✓			
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				6	✓	40	10				
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				6	✓	✓	6	1			
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>									1		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	100	6	6	25	6	10	6	10	✓	10	
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>				20	✓	✓	✓				
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				1	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				30	✓	✓	✓				
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						2	✓				
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H	H	H	H			
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>				3							
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>				2	20	✓	✓				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>				2	20	✓	✓	6	4		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		1		2	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				4	6	✓	✓	✓			
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				12	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	6	85	
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					8	12	12	✓			
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		1			1				2		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		2				?					
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								2	4		
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									2		
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	✓			4	6	10	10	20	4	2	
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>				1		1					
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H				3					
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				6	2	3	2	6	3	1	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	4	2				
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		2		18	✓	✓	✓	80 +	✓	1	
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>							H				
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>									?H		
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		1									
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		1	1		2	2	2				
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>				H	1						
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>									H		
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					1	1	2		H		
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	1	1	6	4	4		4	4	3	
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				12	14	12	4	20		1	
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				1	3	4	6	2			
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		1									
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	2	6	4	✓	2	2	3	4	12		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>						4	3		4		
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		1		1	4	4	2	2	1		

I=Introduced		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		2	H	1						
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		1								
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	20+	50+	12						
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		1	2							
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>			2							
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		4		1					1	
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			1							
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			1		✓	✓	✓		1	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		2	2	2	✓	✓	✓		1	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					1	4	2	1		
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				3	2	2	6	2		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		H								
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				1					H	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				1				✓	✓	
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>								1		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>		6								
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>									2	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>				H	H	1	H			
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			2		6	4	✓		✓	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			1	H					2	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				H						
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	✓		✓	1	✓	H	H	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				12	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						H				
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								2		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H	H	✓	H		
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					H		H		4	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>				H	1	H	2	1		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			1	H	H	1	H		✓	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H	1	H	H	H	H		H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>			2	1	2	2				
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>		H	1	1						
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		H	2							
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		1	1							
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H	H	H					
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>									L	
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		2								
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>									1	
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>								1		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		2	8	H					✓	
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>							H			
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	H	✓	

I=Introduced		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			6							
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>										
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					H	1	4	1	1	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	1							
Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>					2					
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					H	H	1			
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>					H	H	H		H	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		1							1	
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			2		1	1				
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	2	2	2			H		H	H
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			1		✓	✓	✓			
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			1							
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			1			6		✓	✓	
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									6	
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe melanoleuca</i>					1					
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									1	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1								
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>								✓	2	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>			1							
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		2	1							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		2	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			2							
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		1		1					6	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>			1							
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			1						1	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>				1						
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>			2							
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			2	✓	2	1			2	
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		1	1	1						
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		1	1	✓				✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		1	1							
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								2	H	
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			H	H						
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						6	4			

## Mammals

		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			1							
European Suslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								3	1	
Chamois	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>		4								
Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					1	1		1		
Brown Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>				1						



Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				1				2	1	
Brown bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		12								
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		4	2				1			

## Reptiles &amp; Amphibians

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023									
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
European Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>					H	H				
European Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>				✓						
Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax esculentus</i>					✓					
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>				1	✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Pond Turtle	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					1		3			
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>									2	
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>						1				
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>								✓	1	
Aesculapian snake	<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>								1		
Crimean Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>								✓	4	
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>					1					
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>					2	4				

## Lepidoptera

Common name	Scientific name	May 2023									
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>									✓	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>								✓	✓	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>					✓					
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓								
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>									✓	
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓								
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>									✓	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		✓			✓					
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>									✓	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>									✓	
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>								✓		
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>									✓	
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>								1	✓	
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>									✓	
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>						1		1	✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>									✓	
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>								✓	✓	
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>									✓	
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>								✓	✓	

		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓						✓	✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria tircis</i>		✓								
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>									✓	
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>									✓	
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>									✓	
<b>MOTHS: (Macros)</b>											
Silky Wainscot	<i>Chilodes maritimus</i>						✓				
Pale Oak Beauty	<i>Hypomecis punctinalis</i>						✓				
Reed Leopard	<i>Phragmataecia castanaea</i>						✓	2			
Obscure Wainscot	<i>Lucania obsoleta</i>						✓	✓			
Giant Peacock Moth	<i>Saturnia pyri</i>						1	1			
Splendid Brocade	<i>Lacanobia splendens</i>						✓	1			
Flame Wainscot	<i>Senta flammea</i>						✓	1			
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>								1		
Eyed Hawk-moth	<i>Smerinthus ocellata</i>						1				
Orache Moth	<i>Trachea atriplicis</i>						1				
Spotted Sulphur	<i>Emmelia trabealis</i>									✓	
Cream-bordered Green Pea	<i>Earias clorana</i>						1				
Silver-Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>								1		

## Others

		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>					1	✓				
Red-winged Grasshopper	<i>Oedipoda germanica</i>							✓	✓		
Fire Bug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>									✓	
Ant Lion	<i>Ayrmeleon formicarius</i>								2		
Bee Fly	<i>Bombylius</i> sp.									✓	
Hornet	<i>Vesper crabro</i>					✓	✓			✓	
Carpenter Bee	<i>Xyllocopa</i> sp.									✓	
Honey Bee	<i>Apis mellifera</i>									✓	
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i>		✓	✓							
Ground Beetle	<i>Carabus auratus</i>			✓							
Jewel Beetle sp	<i>Anthaxia podolica</i> ?		2								
Silver water beetle	<i>Hydrochara caraboides</i>					1					
Shield Bug sp								✓			
Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket	<i>Bradypterus dasyptus</i>								1	4	
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>		H								
Water Scorpion	<i>Nepa cinerea</i>									1	

		May 2023									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Longhorn Beetle	<i>Morimus funereus</i>									1	
<b>MOLLUSCS:</b>											
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>				1						

## Flora

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		Location
Common name	Scientific name	
<b>Water-lilies</b>	<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>	
European White Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	Delta
European Yellow Waterlily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Delta
Water-soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Delta
<b>Amaryllis Family</b>	<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>	
Field Garlic	<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	Day 2
<b>Bulrush Family</b>	<b>Typhaceae</b>	
Lesser Bulrush	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Delta
Common Bulrush	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Delta
<b>Grasses</b>	<b>Poaceae</b>	
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Delta
<b>Hornworts</b>	<b>Ceratophyllaceae</b>	
Rigid Hornwort	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Delta
<b>Buttercup Family</b>	<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	
Marsh Marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	
Wood anemone	<i>Aemone nemorosa</i>	
Yellow anemone	<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>	
Greater Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>	Delta
<b>Vine Family</b>	<b>Vitaceae</b>	
European Grape	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Delta
<b>Rose Family</b>	<b>Rosaceae</b>	
Common Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Nettle Family</b>	<b>Urticaceae</b>	
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	
<b>Beech Family</b>	<b>Fagaceae</b>	
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>	Dobrogea
Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Birch Family</b>	<b>Betulaceae</b>	
Eastern Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Violets</b>	<b>Violaceae</b>	
Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Zarnesti
<b>Willow Family</b>	<b>Salicaceae</b>	
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Soapberry Family</b>	<b>Sapindaceae</b>	
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Mallow Family</b>	<b>Malvaceae</b>	
Silver Lime	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Campion Family</b>	<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>	
Nottingham Catchfly	<i>Silene nutans</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Wood Sorrel Family</b>	<b>Oxalidaceae</b>	
Wood Sorrel Family	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Zarnesti

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		Location
Common name	Scientific name	
<b>Primrose Family</b>	<b><i>Primulaceae</i></b>	
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>	Zarnesti
Oxlip	<i>Primula elatior</i>	Zarnesti
Alpine bells	<i>Soldanella alpina</i>	Zarnesti
<b>Gentian Family</b>	<b><i>Gentianaceae</i></b>	
Trumpet Gentian	<i>Gentiana acaulis</i>	Zarnesti
<b>Nightshade Family</b>	<b><i>Solanaceae</i></b>	
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Delta
Common Thorn-apple	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Delta
<b>Plantain Family</b>	<b><i>Plantaginaceae</i></b>	
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Delta
Spiked Speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Peony Family</b>	<b><i>Paeoniaceae</i></b>	
Peony	<i>Paeonia mascula</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Oleaster Family</b>	<b><i>Elaeagnaceae</i></b>	
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Dead-nettle Family</b>	<b><i>Lamiaceae</i></b>	
Ground-pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Dobrogea
<b>Figwort Family</b>	<b><i>Scrophulariaceae</i></b>	
Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	Zarnesti
<b>Daisy Family</b>	<b><i>Asteraceae</i></b>	
White butterbur	<i>Petasites albus</i>	Zarnesti
<b>Orchid Family</b>	<b><i>Orchidaceae</i></b>	
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Orchis morio</i>	Zarnesti
Elder flowered orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>	Zarnesti
Common Spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Zarnesti
Monkey Orchid	<i>Orchis simia</i>	Dobrogea
Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Dobrogea
Greater Butterfly Orchid	<i>Plantanthera chlorantha</i>	Dobrogea
Violet Bird's Nest Orchid	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Dobrogea