

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th – 19th June 2023



Dalmatian Pelican, Transylvania Walk, Bran Castle



Brown Bears!



Red-necked Grebe, Squacco & Black-crowned Night Heron and Pallas's Gull



Levant Sparrowhawk, White Eagle

Tour report and images by Byron Palacios



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Day 1

Saturday 10th June

London Heathrow – Bucharest – Vulcan

Our mid-day flight departed from Heathrow arriving to Bucharest with an hour delay. After collecting our luggage from the belt and gathering all the groups together, we met up with our local guide Alex who welcomed everyone and guided us to the minibus outside the airport building. We started our journey leaving the Romanian capital heading north into the mountains, making a stop along the way in order to have a comfort stop and our packed dinner. We continued towards the foothills of Brasov heading for our final destination, the village of Vulcan. We had good weather throughout our journey despite the late arrival, getting to the charming lodge where our hosts awaited us with comfy rooms!

We retired to bed in order to rest and get ready for our first excursion the following day!

Day 2

Sunday 11th June

Coltul Chillilor Monastery (Piatra Craiului National Park) – Stramba Valley (Bear hide)

After a delicious breakfast, we drove a short distance and into the Piatra Craiului National Park, this time to a nice valley where the track that takes to the Coltul Chillilor Monastery is located. The walk is a bit steep at the beginning but very enjoyable and we managed to see great birds such as Red-backed Shrikes, White Wagtails, Yellowhammer, and plenty of Coal Tits and Firecrest. We also managed to find beautiful wildflowers and very active butterflies, with Clouded Apollo being notable. Other birds included Common Buzzard, Hooded Crow, White Storks, Eurasian Kestrel, a fast Goshawk, Tree Pipit and others. Once at the monastery, we enjoyed the visiting the building itself and the stunning surrounding crags and woodland! We then walked our way back to our minibus by lunchtime in order to drive back to our lodge in Vulcan in order to have a delicious lunch.

After lunch, we took a little break in order to get ready to drive for about an hour to the lovely and lush Stramba Valley. After a light shower, the sun was back again so we made our first stop along the access track where we had great views of Red-backed Shrike, Corn Bunting, Eurasian Hoopoe, Yellowhammer, Common Buzzard, Lesser Spotted Eagle and great views of Syrian Woodpecker. We then continued in the minibus along the track, the dense and lush forest made it obvious that we were already in Brown Bear country. We met up with the reserve rangers and drove for another ten kilometres until we got to a lush and beautiful pristine wet woodland, parked the minibus nearby from where we took a walk for the next 300 metres on a track parallel to the river. We then crossed a narrow bridge which led us to the bear hide. We set in the comfortable hide very quietly; three Brown Bears were already there...to our surprise! We were astonished by how quickly we got them visiting the spot! Shortly after we arrived at the hide, a lovely female emerged from the left hand side of the forest with two cubs from this year, absolutely amazing! We loved watching the beautiful and rather clumsy offspring...what a treat, we had wonderful views!

But that wasn't going to be the whole show; soon after the female turned up, another two individuals joined the others and, for a good three quarters of an hour, we enjoyed watching these individuals turning up sporadically, giving us fantastic close views! We enjoyed watching seven wonderful Brown Bears performing marvellously in

great late afternoon light. What a day! They did all sorts of interactions you would expect to see on a television documentary: climbing trees, scratching their backs against them, walking around and emerging in and out different corners of the dark woodland...a wonderful experience for all of us! This was one of the highlights of our expedition in Romania!

We had a fantastic moment watching these amazing Brown Bears, they delivered an unforgettable show for us! We then had to leave, and it was time to go back to the minibus and drive to our lodge in Vulcan for a well-deserved restful night after another exciting experience. It was a late arrival for a very satisfied group who celebrated with a few drinks before going to bed!

Day 3

Monday 12th June

Piatra Craiului National Park (Zarnesti Gorges) – Magura – Bran

After a delicious breakfast, we made sandwiches of our choice in order to take them as packed lunch. We drove around 40 minutes from Vulcan towards the small town of Zarnesti, one of the main access points to the beautiful Piatra Craiului National Park. We reached the area known as the Zarnesti Gorges where we took a good walk along the track which produced great views of White-throated Dipper, Great and White Wagtails, amongst beautiful flowers, butterflies and daylight moths. We also managed to see five beautiful Fire Salamanders along the trail, surrounded by beautiful gorges. Unfortunately, the rain did not allow us to complete the whole walk and forced us to make our way back to the minibus and it became heavier for the next couple of hours. We then drove over the ridge and to the village of Magura from where the views of the gorgeous and the septentrional woodland was amazing, alongside the lush and green rolling hills of this beautiful Transylvanian countryside! The rain eased off a little, so we made a stop on the side of the track in order to have our lunch.

After lunch, we started the drive for 30 minutes towards the village of Bran in order to take a look of this mythical spot that brought to life the legend of Dracula behind the story of Vlad The Impaler. We had terrific views of the castle, and took advantage of our visit to hear about its interesting history and stories around it. We enjoyed a bit of sightseeing in this village and some of us even tried some local bread, coffee and cheese! Black Redstarts, Fieldfare and White Storks were seen here.

After this visit, we drove back to our lodge for a little break followed by a delicious dinner!

Day 4

Tuesday 13th June

Vulcan – Peleș Castle – Tulcea

Our very last breakfast in Vulcan was taken at the usual time. It was a rather overcast morning, but nevertheless beautiful! We got ready to undertake the drive to the Danube Delta leaving the Carpathian Mountains behind, and after grateful farewell to our hosts Joshi, Gigi and Elena at the hostel's main entrance, we hit the road heading south east, changing rapidly to the midlands landscapes as we were gradually descending from the mountains and along the main road through the lower area of Brasov. We made a stop in order to take a walk to the Peleș Castle, a beautiful building property of the Romanian Royal family. The access track produced lots of Long-tailed, Great, Blue and Coal Tits, Red Squirrel and great views of White-throated Dipper. After this interesting visit, we went back on route on our long journey which was split by making several stops along the way; both, birding and coffee

breaks, one of them being made at the area of Glodeanu Lake where we enjoyed watching nice birds such as Western Marsh Harriers, Bearded Reedling, Ruddy Shelduck, Common Pochard, Common Whitethroat, Great and Little Egrets, Squacco Herons and Great Reed Warblers. We had our lunch on the go back in the minibus, making another birding stop at the Hasarlac Lake where we saw Caspian Gulls, Eurasian Coot, European Pochard, Pygmy Cormorants, Eurasian Hoopoe, Red-footed Falcon, European Bee-eater, Corn Bunting, Romanian Yellow Wagtail, amongst others.

The long day's journey finished when we arrived into the Danube-shore town of Tulcea where our floating hotel was waiting for us; and after we thanked our driver for driving us everywhere safely, we jumped on board where the crew welcomed us with local cherry schnapps and biscuits. We were all very happy to be on board our boat, making ourselves feel at home sharing drinks before a delicious meal.

We enjoyed our delicious first dinner on board the floating hotel, and some of us went to explore the town of Tulcea walking along the promenade. We retired to bed for a well-deserved rest, looking forward for a fantastic few days in the Delta itself.

Day 5

Wednesday 14th June

Danube Delta (Mile 36 - Lake Nebuno - Lake Furtuna - Maliuc) – Crisan – Lake Jacob

We woke up to the early hour's noises of a busy Tulcea and the "traffic" along the river Danube. We had a delicious early breakfast on this beautiful sunny morning while watching the river, the city and the motorized boats coming up and down the river. After breakfast, we boarded our expedition boat in order to start exploring the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. From the Mile 36 canal, we took the Old Danube route which took us to different canals and lakes; European Kingfishers were flying along the thick willow tree-lined shores showing their amazing dazzling colours as they showed themselves beautifully on the lower branches. Lots of Pygmy Cormorants were crossing along the canals too alongside Little Egrets, Caspian Gulls and Common Terns; a pair of beautiful and obliging White-tailed Eagle kept us busy for a while on both sides of the river. Lots of singing Common Redstarts and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers were chitchatting frequently, complemented by striking views of Great White Pelican and more Pygmy Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Little Egrets and numerous Squacco Herons. We made a coffee break stop at the entrance of Lake Nebuno from where we enjoyed watching a pair of nesting European Kingfishers perched and fishing very close to us! There were also plenty of White Pelicans, Hooded Crows, Great Reed Warbler, Tree Sparrow, Sand Martins and a load of Eurasian Cuckoos every ten minutes of our sailing. Going back to the main channel, a pair of White-tailed Eagles were spotted again in flight and perched.

After drifting down the many river canals, we managed to catch up with our floating hotel at the village of Maliuc in order to have lunch; our floating hotel started its route sailing down the river towards the village of Crisan during our lunch break - very spectacular! We took a break after lunch and jumped on board of our exploration boat again, heading towards the main forked channel which ends on the lovely Lake Jacob. Several European Rollers, Pygmy Cormorants, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Squacco Herons and Eurasian Cuckoos were seen along here, with some Marsh Harriers, Purple and Grey Herons and the gorgeous Red-necked Grebes! Other corners of the various lakes offered hundreds of Whiskered Terns feeding or simply sat on the water chestnut beds nesting, alongside Common Terns. European Penduline Tits were heard constantly while drifting along the different corners of the beautiful, concealed reed beds and willow trees; groups of Bearded Reedlings were moving along

the reeds like ghosts! A Little Bittern emerged from one of the reed beds and perched on a branch literally in from of us...what a treat of wonderful long and close views we had of this very secretive bird!

We also found groups of Great White Pelicans congregated amongst Mute Swans, Great White and Little Egrets, Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Glossy Ibis and Black-crowned Night-Herons, waiting for a good chance to catch some fish. We found a beautiful Pallas's Gull enjoying the waters too! Other White Pelicans were spotted catching some fish from the surface of the waters by putting their baggy beaks and heads in the water and continuously stirring it. We continued on the main Danube canals where we saw more birds such as Western Marsh Harriers, Red-footed Falcon, Hobby, Ferruginous Ducks, Squacco Herons, Black-crowned Night-Herons, a beautiful family group of Bearded Reedlings, and a single Eurasian Hoopoe; we also had brief views of Great Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. We also found a beautiful male Red-footed Falcon very close the shore looking for food, simply wonderful!

We then arrived back to the spot where our 'mother ship' was waiting for us and already moored at the Magearu canal where we spent the night. We had a beautiful sunset whilst enjoying another scrumptious dinner washed down by local wines and beers.

Day 6

Thursday 15th June

Caraorman Village – Trei Lezere Lake – Lopatna (overnight)

We had another lovely sunny day ideal to enjoy our early breakfast feast; after which, we jumped on our expedition boat in order to head towards the village of Caraorman for a good walk. We had great views of Red-necked Grebes, Ferruginous Ducks and lots of Purple and Squacco Herons along the way. Also, European Bee-eaters, European Rollers, Eurasian Cuckoo, Hooded Crows and Starlings were seen.

As we were reaching the main canal, we arrived at the village of Caraorman where we disembarked and took a walk along this interesting village amongst abandoned buildings, remains of a glass factory and gorgeous local houses with colourful gardens full of flowers. We were surrounded by lots of European Bee-eaters that were nesting in the banks and old concrete buildings in the area, alongside Barn Swallows, Eurasian Hoopoes, Northern Wheatears, Black Redstarts, Lesser Whitethroats, Little Owl and Starlings. Some of the old water pools had a bit of water great for Pied Avocets, nesting Black-winged Stilts, Common Redshank and many Whiskered and Common Terns. After a good stroll around the village, we were back to the river on our excursion boat heading back to our floating hotel slowly and while listening to lots of Penduline Tits, finding a family group nearby which produced great views of this gorgeous bird; we also managed to see their nest which is an stunning piece of art! Lots of Bearded Reedlings were also see along the way down the canal. Alongside them, dozens of Squacco Herons, Rollers, Eurasian Cuckoos, Black-crowned Night-Herons, and plenty more were seen. We arrived at our 'flotel' to enjoy our lunch and a short break.

After lunch, the afternoon excursion started with great views of a gorgeous male Savi's Warbler, and moving on towards the lake Trei Lezere, another beautiful but much smaller lake where we spotted a lovely Grey-headed Woodpecker, a few pairs of Black Tern amongst a plentiful of Whiskered Terns and White Pelicans and a few Dalmatian Pelicans. Two Dalmatian Pelicans sat together with Pygmy Cormorants in beautiful light, surrounded by Caspian Gulls, Whiskered and Common Terns, and trees full of nesting Pygmy and Great Cormorants and a pair of Black-necked Grebes. We also saw European Pochards, and several Edible Frogs quite close to our boat.

After a good afternoon excursion, we made our way back to our floating hotel drifting down the labyrinth of channels till we found it 'parked' by a beautiful enclosure of reeds and willows, absolutely alone with a stunning wild vista, which included pelicans and terns perched on some logs right in front. It was very wonderful to see this background landscape while having our delicious dinner and a marvellous sunset which made us go to catch the moment in our cameras!

Day 7

Friday 16th June

Catanaia Canal – Razaboinitia – Lake Baclanesti – Sontea Canal (mile 36 to Tulcea)

A pre-breakfast scan from the top of the floating hotel produced lots of interesting birds such as Western Marsh Harriers, Golden Orioles, Eurasian Cuckoos, Little Bittern, Whiskered and Common Terns, Penduline Tits, plenty of active Bearded Reedlings just before breakfast. After our usual breakfast, we set off again in the little boat exploring new channels, backwaters and small lakes with the usual Squacco Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron in great numbers. An open area around an abandoned fish factory produced European Rollers, Eurasian Cuckoos, Northern Lapwings, Green Sandpipers, Black-tailed Godwit, Corn Bunting, amongst others. In a burned area along the Catanaia Canal, a beautiful Eurasian Wryneck was spotted and we saw it wonderfully! A few hundred metres from there, a lovely pair of Black Woodpeckers were found in the most beautiful way: perched by their nest and getting some food from old dead stumps and trees! They both eventually perched on a nearby branch, preening and looking around, literally posing for us. We entered into Lake Baclanesti where large groups of Mute Swan and White Pelicans were gathered together with Great Cormorants in order to get fish more easily. A beautiful White-tailed Eagle was spotted on top of a short willow tree, and we all enjoyed watching her through the scopes, alongside Whiskered, Common Terns and Black Terns, very close views of a nice pair of Red-necked Grebe which we enjoyed watching. It was indeed a fantastic and very productive morning around beautiful areas of the Danube Delta. By 14:00 in the afternoon, we caught up with our floating hotel in order to have lunch and to start our sailing towards Tulcea.

We did some birding from the floating hotel while heading to the main river Danube channel and into the main port, spotting some interesting wildlife along the journey, such as White-tailed Eagle, European Kingfishers, Purple Herons, amongst others. Once in Tulcea, another lovely dinner was served overlooking the Danube with the town in the background. Some of us were in the mood to take a walk along the harbour's promenade and also go for drinks in a local bar trying the local beers!

Day 8

Saturday 17th June

Mâcin National Park – Celic Dere

We woke up to a beautiful morning overlooking the Tulcea hills over Somova and parts of the Danube Delta and set off along the outskirts of the town after a delicious early breakfast. After an hour drive, we arrived at the village of Mâcin, driving through the foothills of its mountains and National Park. We took a stroll in the eastern part of the park which produced great views of Tawny Pipit, Turtle Doves, Corn Bunting and a Long-legged Buzzard perched on top of the mountain. We took a nice walk here enjoying lovely birds such as Levant Sparrowhawk, European Honey Buzzard and plenty of interesting butterflies such as Great Banded Graylings, Cardinals and lots of blues! The rocky granite hills produced Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Pied Wheatear and Ortolan Bunting, plus other gorgeous butterflies and plenty of Sand Lizards. Also, Hawfinch, Turtle Dove and a beautiful female Levant

Sparrowhawk perched right in front of us! After this rather productive walk and fighting lots of mosquitoes, we returned to our minibus in order to drive to our picnic lunch spot. Here, we enjoyed of delicious food surrounded by dozens of Cardinal Fritillaries and many birds such as Red-backed Shrikes, Corn Buntings and Icterine Warbler were seen.

After lunch, we drove to a lovely woodland nearby where we heard Red-breasted Flycatchers, but it was really hard to see it well. We then continued our drive for a good 30 minutes to the village of Celic Dere where we took a nice walk along the beautiful countryside that surrounds a picturesque monastery, taking a nice loop walk and enjoying great birds such as European Bee-eaters, Turtle Doves, Red-backed Shrike, Hawfinch, a quick Booted Eagle and great views of Middle Spotted Woodpecker.

After this visit, we headed back to our lodge in Tulcea where we took a break in our comfortable rooms, followed by another delicious supper and drinks!

Day 9

Sunday 18th June

Vadu (Black Sea coast) – Enisala Fortress

We had our breakfast at the usual time and then we drove out of Tulcea heading straight towards the area of Vadu, just by the Black Sea Coast. A bunch of nesting European Bee-eaters were very active at the entrance of the village alongside with Eurasian Hoopoe and Northern Wheatear. We took a good walk here along the track that ends on the Black Sea, surrounded by water ponds and marshes. We had great views of a Dalmatian Pelican and a couple of European Scaup very active nearby. On the opposite bank from us and amongst the reeds, a male Golden Jackal was spotted sitting and watching us; fifty metres to its right, a young jackal and its mother were showing quite well, coming in and out the reed beds. The ponds had a good variety of birds such as Pied Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Common Redshank, Eurasian Spoonbill, Common and Ruddy Shelduck, amongst others. A second pond further up produced several Collared Pratincoles, Marsh Sandpipers, Northern Lapwings and a group of Ruff with two or three beautiful males in breeding plumage! A pair of White-winged Black Terns flew over the ponds giving us great views in flight. We also had great views of a lovely Great Bittern flying right in front of us which was very nice! Lots of Black-tailed Godwits, Common and Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpipers and a nesting colony of Common Terns were seen. We continued towards the shore of the Black Sea, we had great views of Common Tern, Great White Pelicans, Caspian Gull and Great Cormorant. Some of us had a great time enjoying the warm waters of the Black Sea - great fun times!

After enjoying the Black Sea area, we drove along the road heading to the area of Sinoe where we made a stop in order to enjoy our picnic lunch by a little chapel. We had good views of a colony of Spanish Sparrows nesting in this site; also a few Corn Buntings, Eurasian Kestrel and Marsh Harriers in the adjacent fields. After enjoying our lunch, we drove for a good 50 minutes in order to get to the area of Enisala Fortress from where we had amazing views of the upper basin of the Danube Delta. This fortress, the only medieval citadel from Dobrogea that survived the Turkish-Russian wars from the 19th century, gives you a 360 degrees views of the delta and adjacent meadows and hills with prominent old terraces. We had amazing views of raptors such as Eurasian Kestrels, Red-footed Falcon, Eurasian Hobby, Marsh Harrier and Common Buzzard. A beautiful Balkan Green Lizard was also seen here very well as well as several Scaups.

After this great last stop, we drove back to Tulcea in order to get ready for our last dinner together in this fantastic country. Delicious food was served alongside a beautiful farewell cake and local Brut for the big toast...a toast to Romania, its warm, kind and hardworking people, and of course, a toast to its gorgeous wildlife!

Day 10

Monday 19th June

Tulcea – Bucharest airport

Another nice, sunny morning at Tulcea to wave us off. After a delicious breakfast, our bus was packed and ready to go, so off to Bucharest, making a couple of comfort stops and lunch on the way, arriving in time to check in at the airport. We all went through in time and boarded our comfortable flight back to Heathrow airport where we arrived in good time and for more farewells at the luggage carousel.

We all agreed that we had a fantastic tour in Romania, we were lucky enough to share wonderful wildlife moments and an excellent group of people with great sense of humour, camaraderie, and a huge passion about wildlife. It was a journey full of wildlife highlights, lots of them unique and unforgettable to us! Our hotel hosts, from the mountains, floating hotel and guest house in Tulcea were kind and second to none! They made us feel more than welcome, looking after us very well with delicious food and service, people passionate for what they do. We truly had a great time in this wonderful and poorly known country, a trip with a real success and unforgettable, surely well-kept in our memories and hearts.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		June 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				✓					
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				✓					✓
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>					✓	✓	✓		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>									✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				✓	✓				✓
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		✓		✓					
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					✓				
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		H		H				✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					✓		✓		
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					✓		✓		
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>						✓			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓	✓		✓
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓		✓	✓		✓
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>									✓
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						✓	✓		✓
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>									✓
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				✓	✓		✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>							✓		✓
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>									✓
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>					✓				✓
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>					✓				✓
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>									✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓				✓	✓
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					✓				
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					✓	✓	✓		
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>									✓
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					✓	✓	✓		
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>					✓	✓	✓		

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		June 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>									✓
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					✓	✓			
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓		
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>								✓	
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>		✓							✓
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>								✓	✓
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>								✓	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>				✓					
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>		✓							
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓	✓	✓		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								✓	✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓						✓	✓
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						✓			
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓	✓	✓		
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					H		✓	H	
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>					H			✓	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓	H	✓		
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		✓			✓	H	✓	✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>							✓		
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		✓							
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>						✓			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>					✓		✓	✓	✓
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		✓							
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓			✓			✓	✓

N=Near-endemic I=Introduced		June 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					✓				
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				H	✓	H	✓	✓	H
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓	✓				H	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		H							
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓	✓					
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		✓	✓	✓					
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>								H	
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>		✓						✓	
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>		✓							
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	✓	✓		
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								H	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓					✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		H
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							✓		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	✓	✓		H
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					H		✓		
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>						✓		✓	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					H	H	✓		
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	✓	✓	H				
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>					H	H			
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>					✓	✓	H		
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓	✓						
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			✓						
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			✓	H					
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				✓				✓	
Northern Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓						
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>									
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>			✓						
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>		H	H				H		
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					✓				

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Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								H	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			H					H	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			✓						
Common (Royal) Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>								✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓			✓
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								✓	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>			✓	✓					
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>									✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				F	F	F	D		H
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓						
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								✓	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>			✓						
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		H	H						
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓		✓	✓	H		✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		✓					✓	✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓	✓						
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								✓	
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>								✓	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					✓	H	✓		H

Yellow Wagtails – F = *Feldegg*, D = *dombrowskii*

Other vertebrates

		June 2023								
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Mammals										
European Brown Bear					7					
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				1					
European Suslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>									✓
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>								✓	
European Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		2D							
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				✓					
Golden Jackal										3
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		✓			✓				
Reptiles & Amphibians										

Common name	Scientific name	June 2023								
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
European Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>					H	H			
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		H							
European Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>						✓			
Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax esculentus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
Lake Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>					✓	✓	✓		
European Pond Turtle	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>					✓		✓		
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		✓						✓	
Balkan Green Lizard										✓
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>								✓	
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>							✓		

Invertebrates

Common name	Scientific name
Butterflies	
Clouded Apollo	<i>Parnassius mnemosyne</i>
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Southern Small White	<i>Pieris mannii</i>
Mountain Small White	<i>Pieris ergane</i>
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Danube Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias myrmidone</i>
Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias erate</i>
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>
Idas Blue	<i>Plebejus idas</i>
Reverdin's Blue	<i>Plebejus argyrognomon</i>
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>
Amanda's Blue	<i>Agrodiaetus amanda</i>
Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
False Comma	<i>Nymphalis vaualbum</i>
Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>
Cardinal Fritillary	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Weaver's Fritillary	<i>Clossiana dia</i>
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>
Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
Great Banded Grayling	<i>Kanetisa circe</i>
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>
MOTHS:	
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>
Black-veined Moth	<i>Siona lineata</i>
Spotted Burnet	<i>Zygaena ephialtes ephialtes</i>
Other invertebrates	
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>
Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Blue-eyed Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>
Blue Hawker	<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>
Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna mixta</i>
Blue Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>
Southern Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum brunneum</i>
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>
MOLLUSCS:	
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>
Brown-lipped Banded Snail	<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i>
Great Grey or Leopard Slug	<i>Limax maximus</i>