

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th - 29th May 2025



Pallas's Gull



Collared Pratincole



Great Reed Warbler



Penduline Tit

Tour report by Andy Bunten, photos by Alan Crockard



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Summary

How on earth does one summarise such a fabulous trip and pick the best highlights?

Was it the Brown Bears parading around in front of us: two tiny twin cubs with their mother making a rapid exit as a huge male bear entered stalking a receptive female?

Or the stunning views of Piatra Craiului (King's Rock) in glorious sunshine with a Goshawk whisking overhead and Spotted Nutcracker hurrying past?

Perhaps the day we had extended views of Red-breasted Flycatcher; Golden Orioles zipping hither and thither; Levant Sparrowhawk perched just feet away; soaring Honey Buzzards, Booted Eagles, Short-toed Eagle and Long-legged Buzzard; Icterine Warblers wheezing from the Hornbeam and Middle-spotted Woodpeckers exploring a nearby tree trunk for insects?

There again when we travelled down the Black Sea coast and found Paddyfield Warbler, European Bee-eaters, European Rollers and Red-footed Falcons galore.

However, we all agreed that star of the show was the Danube Delta itself. Its stunning vistas and abundant wildlife spectacles. Hundreds of cormorants, pelicans and egrets feeding together in a frenzy of action; the 'mixed maternity ward' of breeding Black-necked Grebes, Black-headed Gulls and Whiskered Terns and, of course, the trip down legendary 'Kingfisher Alley'!

What an amazing trip.

Day 1

Tuesday 20th May

Flight to Bucharest: drive to Zarnesti, Transylvania

Our flight from London Heathrow airport was with Lufthansa and necessitated a brief stop at Frankfurt before flying on to Bucharest where we arrived in good time.

Seven of our group had travelled to Bucharest separately so our group of five met them, and our wonderful guide Cristian, on arrival. Thereafter everything was seamless – we hopped into our bus and drove northwards through the increasingly mountainous terrain with fantastic views.

We made a brief stop hour a little before the small town of Comarnic where we listened to Eurasian Blackcap and Field Crickets – just audible above the traffic noise.

Back in the bus we drove through more fabulous scenery until we arrived at our guest house in Zarnesti. Here we had a delicious meal accompanied by a glass (or two) of Palinka – the local and lovely plum brandy.

Day 2

Wednesday 21st May

Piatra Craiului National Park, Cheia Valley, Bran

We arose feeling refreshed this morning for a wonderful breakfast spread and with Black Redstarts on the roofs and Western House Martins building nests nearby.

The sun was shining perfectly as we headed off to Piatra Craiului National Park (King's Rock) - an impressive 25 Km long ridge. Our trek was going to be a lot gentler though - a walk up a track to the monastery of Coltur Chiliilor.

Yellowhammers, Eurasian Blackcaps and Song Thrushes were in full song as we made our way up the track but it was the occasional Fieldfare that attracted our attention with these birds in lovely breeding plumage. A beautiful male Red-backed Shrike posed perfectly for us on a low Hawthorn bush while increasing numbers of lovely green-striped Sand Lizards basked in the warm sunshine.

As we entered denser tree cover Lesser Whitethroats rattled away at us and those whose hearing range allowed it heard both Common Firecrest and Goldcrest. The former also giving very good views on the edge of a big Norway Spruce.

A Spotted Nutcracker made a brief fly-by appearance, unfortunately only seen by a few, followed, a short while later by first a Eurasian Sparrowhawk and then a Eurasian Goshawk seemingly hard on the Sparrowhawk's tail.

The open areas had the remains of many Cowslips and several Elder-flowered and Broad-leaved Marsh Orchids. Globe Flowers were starting to emerge and Woodland Dor Beetles scuttled along the paths. We found a Fire-bellied Toad in an ephemeral pool and although butterflies weren't numerous, we saw some lovely Orange-tips and a fast-flying Common Swallowtail.

We lunched at the monastery site before heading back down the track to more singing Lesser Whitethroats, Garden Warblers and Blackcaps.

We had a quick coffee stop at the café opposite the park visitor centre before going to the Cheia Valley for some spectacular views, a discussion about Vlad the Impaler and sightings of the ubiquitous Field Crickets emerging from their burrows.

Then it was a quick stop at Bran to admire the impressive castle, the differently impressive stalls of memorabilia, some lovely White Storks on their nests and beautiful breeding Fieldfares in the area before heading back to our hotel for another good meal and, of course, completing our list.

Day 3

Thursday 22nd May

Zarnesti Gorge - Sinca Noua and Stramba Valley

The gardens of our hotel had screaming Common Swifts and industrious House Martins while a Little Owl delighted us from its nearby perch as we ate breakfast.

We had a short drive before our gentle walk up the impressive Zarnesti Gorge with its towering limestone cliffs. We struck lucky almost immediately with a Grey Wagtail and a female Collared Flycatcher right next to the coach by a small stream. A very loud Red-breasted Flycatcher sang from the steep Beech woods but though we couldn't locate it this time we were to have good views of it when we left the gorge.

A Wood Warbler at this site was less elusive as was a very vocal Raven serenading us from a nearby tree top. Those with their heads in the air saw soaring Common Buzzards, swooping Peregrine Falcons and Common Kestrels those with their heads down found Brown Bear poo and a Slow Worm. The latter making its way unhurriedly across the track.

We searched diligently but unsuccessfully for the elusive Wallcreeper but were rewarded with Crag Martins and Alpine Swifts plus some lovely butterflies including Red Admiral, Green-veined Whites, Speckled Woods, and a Map.

Our gentle walk back produced Leopards Bane – a local specialty – and some beautiful Hungarian Snowbells.

Back to the guest house we had lunch and relaxed a little before heading out to Sinca Noua to have a walk down this broad valley site. Golden Orioles, Green Woodpeckers and Red-backed Shrikes seemed common and butterflies, including Brimstone, Common Blues, Small Heaths and Clouded Yellows relished the strong sun.

At 6pm we met the ranger and were taken carefully to the bear hide. Some bears were already present, and we settled down to watch the spectacle.

Over the next hour or more we saw a total of ten Brown Bears. Two females with two cubs each and one female with three very young cubs only around four months old. They made a tactical retreat as a big female appeared very closely followed by a very interested massive male. Our ranger informed us the female, 22 years old, was known as Big Eyes and the male as Big Beard.

There was a huge cloud burst as we left the hide which was doubtless welcome to the beautiful Fire Salamander we walked past before getting into our bus for the drive home for a celebratory beer.

Day 4

Friday 23rd May

Zarnesti to Tulcea – via Lake nr Andancata (Rodeanu) and Chiolul Hasarlac

A lovely day and our transfer day too so, breakfast taken and packing done, we headed off south and east towards Tulcea.

We stopped at petrol station where found some immaculate Black-headed (*feldegg*) races of Western Yellow Wagtail and heard Common Whitethroat singing from a distant bush.

Our next stop was at Lake Rodeanu, near Adancata, which was very dry but produced some nearby, very elegant, Curlew Sandpipers, Common Shelduck, Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts. Great Reed Warblers, Marsh Warblers and Eurasian Skylarks serenaded us and excitement was caused by two low flying Western Marsh Harriers causing consternation to a whole host of waterbirds.

We lunched in the welcome shade of a service station before continuing our journey eastwards until we arrived at the impressive Chiolul Hasarlac; a lake not far from Tulcea.

Here we had an amazing time with loads of birds appearing left, right and centre. We found Collared Pratincoles on the nearby water margin with scuttling Little Stints and Little Ringed Plovers, Red-crested Pochard, Pygmy Cormorants, Black-necked Grebes, Ruddy Shelduck and Ferruginous Duck swimming just off-shore and in the air Whiskered Terns, Little Gulls, Western Marsh Harriers, and hovering Red-footed Falcons. What a place!

As a taster for what was to come, this had been a brilliant stop but now it was time to complete our journey to Tulcea where we boarded the floating hotel and were greeted by the usual very warm welcome and very welcome cool Palinka.

Day 5

Saturday 24th May

Delta - Channels Mile 36, Sontea and Caraoarman; Lake Jacob

We awoke to a misty morning and the annual Danube Canoe Marathon which meant we needed to be away early after breakfast into our smaller boat and off to explore the Delta.

Common Terns called around us and, as we left the main channel, two female Common Goldeneye took to the air and flew overhead. Into Channel Mile 36 we started picking up our first singing Thrush Nightingales and Common Redstarts, together with Eastern Olivaceous Warblers which seemed to be in every tree!

We found our first White-tailed Eagle, massive against the sky, and our first swimming Dice Snake before we sailed into the aptly named 'Kingfisher Alley'. These gorgeous bolts of blue and orange shot out of the vegetation from either side of us; at one time three birds were diving simultaneously into the water.

Icterine and Great Reed Warblers were sounding off now and there were Pygmy and Great Cormorants everywhere. The more open areas of water produced Great Crested and Red-necked Grebes as well as increasing numbers of the impressive White Pelicans. The trees alongside the channels held Collared Flycatcher; Eurasian Hobby; occasional Hoopoes and our first European Roller of the day. The first of many!

It was difficult to know where to look first with such an abundance of fantastic wildlife.

We wound our circuitous route round back to our Flotel with more White-tailed Eagles, always with their attendant Hooded Crows, and a lovely flock of European Bee-eaters as we approached our base and lunch.

We sailed along during lunch with both White and Dalmatian Pelicans flying overhead together with our first impressive Pallas's Gulls. Mooring up we had Olivaceous Warblers singing right next to the boat and then a couple of Rosy Starlings also put in an appearance.

Our afternoon trip in the small boat produced more numbers of wonderful egrets; herons, including more Purple Herons; pelicans, gulls and terns as well as a Grey-headed Woodpecker and a calling Penduline Tit.

We turned into Lake Jacob where Whiskered Terns 'sneezed' overhead and large numbers of pelicans, both White and Dalmatian, gave us an opportunity to compare their plumage. The Whites certainly won the 'Omo' challenge in comparison with the decidedly grey looking Dalmatians.

More Red-footed Falcons and Eurasian Hobbies accompanied us as we headed back to our Flotel for more fabulous food and conversation.

Day 6

Sunday 25th May

Caraorman island, Lakes Cu Ciulini, Trei Iezere and Canal Lopatna

Early risers had Common Cuckoos galore; an enthusiastic Olivaceous Warbler; a Thrush Nightingale in subdued voice; a beautiful male Eurasian Golden Oriole as well as the usual White and Dalmatian Pelicans; Pallas's Gulls and Whiskered Terns - not a bad way to start the day.

After breakfast we headed out on the small boat towards Caraorman Island. As we left we had a great view of Rosy Starlings right next to the boat and Eurasian Hobbies and European Rollers were flying along the trees lining the canal.

We had excellent views of a swimming Dalmatian Pelican before the first of our encounters with Penduline Tits. Initially we found one of their delicate nests, then later found two lovely birds in the reeds and then another nest with a bird flying in to it. A low Sand Martin colony was in busy action while European Bee-eaters perched nearby before we approached Caraorman Island with Red-footed Falcons hovering over the dry grassland.

Our walk across the salty sand and shallow pools produced anxious parent Common Shelducks with young, two beautiful Ruddy Shelducks together with Black-winged Stilts and Pied Avocets picking around for invertebrates in the shallow waters.

The ruined buildings produced a Little Owl that gazed at us sternly before retreating inside and, as we left this odd place, we saw yet more European Bee-eaters; Red-footed Falcons and European Rollers perched on the wires—quite a sight.

Heading back to the flotel we had more good views of Dalmatian Pelican and watched an enthusiastic Caspian Gull attempting to deal with a huge fish way above his pay grade.

Lunch and the next few hours were spent serenely sailing along seeing more Eurasian Hobbies, European Rollers and the rest of the usual suspects.

As we arrived at our berthing spot, a huge number of White Pelicans was gathered to fish and we watched these more closely as we boarded the small boat and headed into the channels marvelling at their sheer numbers.

We sailed blissfully through channels with Great Reed and Olivaceous Warblers; Lesser Whitethroats and Golden Orioles serenading us.

Sailing across the lake we found impressive numbers of Whiskered and Black Terns and in the trees at the edge of the lake lurked a menacing White-tailed Eagle; as ever being pestered by crows.

We added Muskrat to our mammal list and a nice Grey-headed Woodpecker before our finale in Lake Iezere of a fabulous colony of Black-necked and Great Crested Grebes; Whiskered Terns and Black-headed Gulls – a mixed maternity ward as it was perfectly described.

Day 7

Monday 26th May

North Delta – Canals Varsina and Sontea; Village Mila 23

It had clearly been raining steadily overnight and the morning was dull and overcast as a few gallant souls gathered for the now familiar early morning birds of White Pelican, Common Cuckoos, Whiskered Terns and other old friends.

This time we had a Savi's Warbler reeling away nearby but although we had a glimpse of a warblery-type bird flying through the reeds we couldn't be certain it was our Savi's. We climbed into our boat and sailed gently away into the steady but light rain. As so often we came across the enchanting sight of mixed feeding groups of pelicans, cormorants, egrets and herons.

In an open area we watched White Pelicans hunting in a group with synchronised dipping to entrap the unfortunate fish below.

A moth - Orache Moth - joined us on board and we carefully guarded this beautiful insect from the steady rain. We sailed through the white and yellow lilies and the white flowered water soldier with calling Eurasian Hobby circling over head

A welcome coffee staved of the distinctly cool climate, and we found a young bedraggled White-tailed Eagle low on the bank. It looked as if it had become waterlogged and couldn't fly so we sailed on to give it peace and time to dry out

A couple of happier looking eagles were on a huge nest in the distance as we made our way back to the Flotel for lunch and to warm up a little.

After lunch the weather perked up, became dry and even warmish as several of the group used the top deck for perfect views across the reedbeds and our last look at this spectacular landscape.

A squadron/gulp of Great Cormorants were swimming in front of us and taking off in formation before landing and recommencing feeding.

Thrush Nightingales, Common Redstarts, Western Olivaceous and Great Reed Warblers sang us goodbye and Whiskered Terns, White-tailed Eagles with European Rollers and Eurasian Hobbies all came into view on the canal side vegetation.

Bird of the sail back was undoubtedly a Black Stork perched atop a tree before flying off into the woods.

We arrived back in Tulcea around 17.00 and a group, led by Cristian, had a brief walk around his home town to see the delights of this important gateway to the Danube.

Day 8

Tuesday 27th May

Enisala (Babadag Forest Edge) and Fortress; Sinoie and Vadu Area

This morning we bade farewell to our glorious Flotel and its skilful and helpful staff and set off down the edge of the Black Sea with a different bus and driver – Marius.

We came to unscheduled stop in Sabangia due to a detached fuel pipe which gave us time to admire nearby Eurasian Bee-eaters and Tree Sparrows while Marius effected a temporary repair – concluded in the next village with the help of the Mayor.

Our first scheduled stop was on the eastern edge of the Babadag Forest near Enisala and we quickly found a pair of fabulous Lesser Grey Shrikes. While these posed on a dead tree close to us we, in turn, were quickly found by a motley selection of dogs loosely associated with a herd of very varied goats being guided across the forest edge,

We heard the weak call of a Grey-headed Woodpecker but no trace of the Sombre Tit we'd hoped for so it was back on the bus and the brief drive uphill to the base of an impressive old Fortress – originally constructed by the Italians in the 12th Century. Of more recent construct were the set of sparkling clean toilets which brought joy to many.

Northern Wheatear, Crested Lark, two delightful Susliks and a Grass Snake were found before we gradually and gently walked downhill on a well-used track

White Pelicans soared over from the nearby huge lakes and the sounds from the Bee-eater colony intensified. Corn Buntings jangled but it took us some time to locate them, often singing low down on the top of the large Musk Thistles.

A Spur-thighed Tortoise was found under an old sand bank and duly admired before we made our way further south to our lunch stop near Sinoie where Cristian rustled up a delightful repas and watched Spanish Sparrows, fabulous Marsh Harriers and Yellow Wagtails and heard a Quail.

Our final stop of the day, the abandoned old rare metals factory at Vadu, proved fantastically productive.

The Eurasian Bee-eater colony was very active and the Red-footed Falcons which nested nearby were constantly hovering around us.

The pools held various waterfowl and waders including Ferruginous Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Little Stint, Wood Sandpiper, Black-tailed Godwit and Greenshank. A few Red-rumped Swallows joined the larger numbers of Barn Swallows and mixed martins.

Tiny toads clambered around us - Eastern Spadefoot we thought – while Tree Frogs and Fire-bellied Toads were vocal but hidden.

The reeds then had their time as first a Eurasian Bittern made a brief appearance, glimpsed by a few, then a beautiful male Bearded Tit perched on top of the reeds, followed a short while later by a Paddyfield Warbler

The air seemed full of Western Marsh Harriers which glided and swooped over the reeds close to us as we examined more pools among the reeds finding new species like Garganey, both Ruff and Reeve (the former gradually adopting their breeding plumage), and more Curlew and Wood Sandpipers, Avocets, Black-winged Stilts, Gadwall and Shelduck.

A last look at a pool with many Common Terns, Avocets and Common Redshank and we had to drag ourselves away from this amazing area and head back north to our new guest house.

Day 9

Wednesday 28th May

Oak woodland west of Tulcea, Celic Dere and Macin Hills

Today's weather looked somewhat dull, cloudy and damp but full of hope, coffee, eggs and other breakfast delights, we made our way west out of Tulcea.

Our first stop in open park-like woodland produced a distant Booted Eagle, Eurasian Hoopoes, European Rollers and Bee-eaters plus the lovely sight and sound of a perched Woodlark. A Brown Hare lolloped away as we watched two shrike species; Woodchat and Lesser Grey.

As we left this excellent habitat, we found an impressive Mammoth Wasp and a nicely posing family of Isabelline Wheatears.

Our next stop was the Nunnery of Celic Dere where excitable starlings and swallows heralded a Levant Sparrowhawk which swooped down and then perched in a tree glaring at us with its dark eyes before swooping off again.

A Black Stork flew overhead; a Little Owl bobbed at us from a chimney top and a Common Nightingale sang to give us a comparator with our previous Thrush Nightingales. There were Golden Orioles seemingly everywhere while an Icterine Warbler wheezily sang from cover and a Middle Spotted Woodpecker thoroughly invested an old Oak tree.

As we walked along the wood edge Corn Buntings jangled and Blackbird alarm calls once again alerted us to the presence of the Levant Sparrowhawk, which dashed away.

In the woodland we had fantastic views of Red-breasted Flycatcher which perched for some minutes on the end of a long Beech twig – unusual in a normally constantly mobile bird.

We had our picnic by the bus where we were treated to two Booted Eagles and a Honey Buzzard soaring overhead. Those brave enough, attempted the car park toilets.

Our final stop for the day were the Macin Mountains. European Bee-eaters and Rollers once again in relative abundance plus some lovely views of Lesser Grey Shrike, Tawny Pipits and plump Corn Buntings.

It was getting a little cooler and windier now and we had some excellent birds of prey; a pale Booted Eagle; hovering Short-toed Eagle directly overhead and excellent views of a Long-legged Buzzard, its cinnamon tail clear in the light.

We worked hard to find a distant Pied Wheatear in the rocks and though we succeeded, they were hardly award-winning views.

Then time for home and more lovely food, beer and wine.

Day 10

Thursday 29th May

To airport

Our last day was primarily a travelling one as we clambered about our bus at 08.30 for the last time. The sun shone brightly as we sped past fields full of various corvids, Common Buzzards, White Storks and a couple of Booted Eagles.

Our route took us through a Red-footed Falcon colony giving us glimpses of these birds before we went slowly past Chiolul Hasarlac and we had brief views of various waterbirds including White Pelicans and Pygmy Cormorants.

White Storks were nesting on top of telegraph poles; European Rollers perched on wires; Common Cuckoos flew from tree to tree and Roe Deer watched our progress as travelled steadily west.

To avoid some heavy traffic, we took a lovely rural diversion with more storks, Glossy Ibises and a black and white woodpecker in a village. Only seen very briefly; Syrian? We couldn't be sure.

Then it was on the brand-new motorway and safely on time to the airport and our flight home.

What a fabulous trip!



Little Owl winking and White-tailed Eagle

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
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>								✓		
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>				✓						
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>				✓				✓		
Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>					✓					
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>								H		
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>			✓							
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓
Feral Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>						✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					✓		✓			
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				✓		✓	✓			
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>						✓				

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				✓		✓	✓	✓		
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				✓		✓		✓		
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				✓						
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						✓		✓		
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>								✓		
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>								✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>								✓		
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>								✓		
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				✓				✓		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				✓				✓		
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>				✓		✓				
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>						✓	✓			
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				✓						
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓			✓				✓	✓	✓
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>							✓		✓	
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
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>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓		
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>									✓	
Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>									✓	
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									✓	✓
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									✓	
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Eurasian 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>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					✓		✓			
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>									✓	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			H		✓	H	H		✓	
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>		H			✓				H	
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			✓						H	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					✓	✓		H		
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>		✓	✓							
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			✓		H	✓	H	H	✓	

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike										✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓		✓					
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>		✓								
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	H	✓	✓							
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	✓	H								
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			✓							
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓		✓	H	✓	✓		
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					H	✓				
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>						H		✓		
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				H						
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								✓		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			✓							
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>								✓	✓	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>								H		
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		✓								
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			✓							
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓		✓	H	✓			
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				H	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						✓				
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>								✓		

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>				H		H	H	H		
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					✓	H	✓			
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					H			H	✓	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					H	H	H			
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	H	H	✓	✓	✓	H	H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		H	H		H					
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		✓		H	✓	H	H	H	H	
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>		✓								
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>		H								
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	H							
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			H						✓	
Rosy Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>					✓	✓				
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		✓	✓	✓						
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓							
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					H	H	H			
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>									H	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>			✓						✓	
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			✓		H					
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		✓			H	✓	✓			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓		✓	✓	
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									✓	
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									L	
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>				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>			✓							

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>		✓								
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		H	✓		✓				✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓	✓	✓						
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>					H			✓	✓	✓
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		✓								
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					✓	✓	✓			

Other vertebrates

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Mammals											
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>									✓	✓
Common Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>						✓				
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>		✓								
European Suslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								✓		
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>										✓
European Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓							
Carpathian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra carpatica</i>			✓							
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>								✓	✓	✓
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			12							
Reptiles and Amphibians											
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>			1							
European Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>		✓						H		
Eastern Spadefoot Toad	<i>Pelobates syriacus</i>								1		
Eastern Tree Frog	<i>Hyla orientalis</i>					H			H		

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>								1		
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>		✓	✓							
Eastern Slow-worm	<i>Anguis colchica</i>			1							
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>								1		
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>					✓					

Invertebrates

		May 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Butterflies											
Common Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>		✓	✓							
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>		✓								
Common Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓							
Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>			✓							
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>								✓		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>					✓					
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			✓							
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓							
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>			✓							
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>								✓		
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>								✓		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓						✓	
Map Butterfly	<i>Araschnia levana</i>			✓							
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>									✓	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>			✓							
Camberwell Beauty	<i>Nymphalis antiopa</i>		✓								
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>		✓	✓			✓			✓	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓	✓							

Common name	Scientific name	May 2025									
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Common Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>				✓						
Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>			✓							
Damselfly & Dragonflies											
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓	✓			
Others											
Orache Moth	<i>Trachea atriplicis</i>							✓			
Specked Yellow Moth	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>		✓								
Forester Moth	<i>Adscita statice</i>									✓	
Woodland Dor Beetle	<i>Anoplotrupes stercorosus</i>		✓	✓							
Rove Beetle sp	<i>Staphylinus sp</i>		✓								
Ground Beetle sp	<i>Carabus sp</i>			✓							
Cockchafer	<i>Melolontha melolontha</i>		✓	✓							
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>		✓								
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>		✓	H							
Brown Marmorated Stink Bug	<i>Halyomorpha halys</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Shield Bug sp				✓							
Large Yellow-headed Scoliid Wasp	<i>Megascolia maculata</i>									✓	
Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>		✓								
Scorpion Fly	<i>Panorpa sp</i>									✓	
Nursery Spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>		✓								
Wolf spider sp	Lycosidae									✓	

Plants

Common name	Scientific name
Sensitive Ferns	Onocleaceae
Ostrich Fern	<i>Onoclea struthiopteris</i>
Pine Family	Pinaceae
Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>
European Larch	<i>Larix decidua</i>
Scots Pine	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>
Water-lilies	Nymphaeaceae
European White Water-lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
European Yellow Water-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>
Water-plantain Family	Alismataceae
Common Arrowhead	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>
Frog-bit Family	Hydrocharitaceae
Water-soldier	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>
Orchids	Orchidaceae
Elder-flowered Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>
Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>
Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>
Bulrush Family	Typhaceae
Lesser Bulrush	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>
Common Bulrush	<i>Typha latifolia</i>
Rushes	Juncaceae
Sharp Rush	<i>Juncus acutus</i>
Grasses	Poaceae
Common Reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Buttercup Family	Ranunculaceae
Globeflower	<i>Trollius europaeus</i>
Marsh-marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>
European Wood Anemone	<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>
Yellow Anemone	<i>Anemonoides ranunculoides</i>
Greater Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Pea Family	Fabaceae
Bush Vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Milkworts	Polygalaceae
Common Milkwort	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>
Rose Family	Rosaceae
Common Quince	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>
Common Pear	<i>Pyrus communis</i>
Wild Strawberry	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>
Oleaster Family	Elaeagnaceae
Narrow-leaved Oleaster	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>
Hemp Family	Cannabaceae
Indian Hemp	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>
Nettle Family	Urticaceae
Common Nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
Beech Family	Fagaceae
European Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Pedunculate Oak	<i>Quercus robur</i>
Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>
Walnut Family	Juglandaceae
White Walnut	<i>Juglans regia</i>
Birch Family	Betulaceae
Eastern Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>
Wood-sorrels	Oxalidaceae
Common Wood Sorrel	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Violets	Violaceae
Dog Violet	<i>Viola riviniana</i>
Wild Pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
Willow Family	Salicaceae
White Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>
White Willow	<i>Salix alba</i>
Flaxes	Linaceae
	<i>Linum tenuifolium</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Narrow-leaved Flax	
Crane's-bills	Geraniaceae
Meadow Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium pratense</i>
Dusky Crane's-bill	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>
Common Herb Robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Purple Loosestrife Family	Lythraceae
Purple Loosestrife	<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
Soapberry Family	Sapindaceae
Field Maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>
Mallow Family	Malvaceae
Silver Lime	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>
Mignonettes	Resedaceae
Common Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>
Cabbage Family	Brassicaceae
Perennial Honesty	<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>
Showy Mistletoes	Loranthaceae
Yellow-berried Mistletoe	<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>
Campion Family	Caryophyllaceae
Wood Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>
Dogwood Family	Cornaceae
Common Dogwood	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Primrose Family	Primulaceae
Oxlip	<i>Primula elatior</i>
Common Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Hungarian Snowbell	<i>Soldanella hungarica</i>
Borage Family	Boraginaceae
Tufted Forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis laxa</i>
Nightshade Family	Solanaceae
Bittersweet	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Plantain Family	Plantaginaceae
Brooklime	<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>
Spiked Speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>

Common name	Scientific name
Dead-nettle Family	Lamiaceae
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiasstrum galeobdolon</i>
Blue Bugle	<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>
White Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Lesser Yellow Rattle	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>
Daisy Family	Asteraceae
Common Chicory	<i>Cichorium intybus</i>
Carpathian Leopard's-bane	<i>Doronicum carpathicum</i>
White Butterbur	<i>Petasites albus</i>
European Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
Viburnum Family	Viburnaceae
European Elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>
Honeysuckle Family	Caprifoliaceae
Small Teasel	<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>
Aralia Family	Araliaceae
Common Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>