

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

29th April – 8th May 2026



Penduline Tit



Brown Bear



Carpathian Chamois



White Pelican

Tour report by Keith Buchanan
Photos by Andrew Burns



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Summary

The weather was uncharacteristically cold when we arrived in Transylvania; indeed, we had snow on our first day. But that did not depress our spirits, and we had excellent close views of Carpathian Chamois. Viewing at least eight different bears in the Stramba valley was another highlight. Down in the Danube Delta, we were transfixed by wonderful close views of Whiskered and Black Terns nesting on lily pads, while Black-necked and Red-necked Grebes constructed their floating nests nearby. Golden Jackals were another highlight. Our final location, in Dobroudja, brought close encounters with Red-footed Falcons, Pied Wheatears and a Saker Falcon. Altogether, it was a very memorable trip.

Day 1

Wednesday 29th April

The group assembled at Heathrow and our flight both left London and arrived in Bucharest on time, and without incident. Our local guide, Bogdan, met us there. Reconstruction works at the airport meant the bus could not get close to the arrivals hall, so a short walk was necessary to reach our vehicle.

Our drive north out of Bucharest was slow due to heavy traffic, but the traffic eased as we made our way into the mountains. Steep exposed faces of rock revealed the sandstone fabric of the low hills formed from materials eroded out of the higher Carpathians. Going through the mountains, we entered a zone of mixed forest, broadleaves making way for Spruce and Larch as we climbed. As we made our way towards Bran, the fields opened up on either side. Two dark shapes in one of these fields resolved into Lesser Spotted Eagles as we got closer, and we stopped the bus to admire them. They were actively feeding, presumably on earthworms and other invertebrates.

Shortly afterwards, we arrived at our guest house, where we had a celebratory drink and a tasty buffet. We then had briefing on the day ahead, before retiring after a long day.

Day 2

Thursday 30th April

This morning, we awoke to a light covering of snow and a temperature of 2°C: not what we had been expecting! Undaunted, we drove the short distance to a gorge near Rasnov. The sleet continued to come down lightly, gradually turning to rain, as we walked up the gorge. A Grey Wagtail bobbed its tail on the edge of the swift-flowing stream, and we got a glimpse of a Dipper as it disappeared round the corner. This was one of the 'black-bellied' form, rather than the UK subspecies, which has a brown belly.

We closely examined the high limestone face which appeared on our left side, but nothing was moving apart from the odd Raven. Further on, we stopped to listen to bird song, and were able to pick out familiar species such as Blackcap and Chiffchaff. A brief glimpse of a Willow/Marsh Tit was unresolved, as the bird did not call. Various plants were identified as we walked along, such as the lovely Yellow Wood Anemone. We had just returned to the bus when a bird in the tree in front caught our attention; it turned out to be a Collared Flycatcher, and most of us got a reasonable view.

We drove into Bran, and after a refreshing coffee we took some photos of the famous Bran Castle. An obliging Great Spotted Woodpecker showed itself just beside the bus, before retreating to a tree further away. We boarded the bus and returned to our guest house for lunch.

After lunch, we drove to the lovely Stramba valley, the roadside fields bordered by low wooded hills. These hills generated thermals, and soon a Honey Buzzard was spotted, along with regular Ravens. The pastures were floristically rich, and there were large numbers of, for example, Green-winged orchids. Fieldfares were spotted regularly, along with a number of Great Spotted Woodpeckers. But our main mission was to meet up with the ranger to take us to the bear hide. There, we saw at least eight bears, with a lot of coming and going. A mother with three cubs was very hesitant about coming down the hill, while older bears were ever-present. Later, we observed an amorous male chasing a reluctant female up the hill (this is the mating season). We also learned that all cubs are born in January, irrespective of timing of copulation, due to delayed implantation. An excellent evening was rounded off with some Roe Deer out on the pastures on the way back down the valley.

Day 3

Friday 1st May

After breakfast, we set off on a cold, frosty but fine and sunny morning on our way to Zărnesti. Our route took us first along a backroad, past cottages with immaculate vegetable beds and delightful little orchards of cherry and plum, from which popular local drinks are made. We then wound our way through Zărnesti with its single storey houses, and up into the gorge itself, part of the Piatra Craiului National Park, one of eighteen in Romania.

We drove up into this mountainous park to about 700m before parking the bus. We then started our walk up up the Zărnesti gorge. As we climbed, the little river, which supports Dipper, eventually disappeared into the limestone bedrock, but the melting snow had resulted in other springs appearing. The cold weather had suppressed birdsong somewhat, but Coal Tits were in evidence early on. A pair of Jays landed on the track in front of us, and high above both Common Buzzard and Common Kestrel flashed across the top of the gorge.

When we reached a high limestone wall, two Carpathian Chamois were visible at the top of the steep slope. A little further on, by a hut, three more were encountered much lower down, giving excellent views. A Wallcreeper was briefly seen flying from a potential nest site, but despite our best efforts we could not find it again. On our way back down, we paused to watch a tit. It failed to call: the voice would have clinched identification, but we decided it was a Marsh Tit.

After our picnic lunch, we took the vehicle up out of the gorge to the pretty village of Magura, at about 1000m. This village has a strong alpine vibe and, after coffee, we explored it on foot. The garden next to the café produced the first of a number of Common Redstarts, while Black Redstarts were seen on various roofs. The walk was delightful, with varied topography, gardens and the impressive backdrop of the mountains. Excellent views of a male Collared Flycatcher were followed by a calling Willow Tit, foraging Jays, Linnets and Fieldfares. High above, three White Storks flew gracefully by. A calling Nutcracker caught our attention as we walked back down into the forest, but we could not locate it, and shortly afterwards the bus picked us up again to return to our guest house.

Day 4

Saturday 2nd May

As we waited for our minibus, we were pleased to hear some Common Swifts flying over, the cold snap having slowed their arrival. Two Willow Tits called from a neighbouring garden, and the yaffling of a Green Woodpecker was also heard. This was our transfer day, and we headed south from our village in bright sunshine, although the temperature was still low. Our first stop was at a petrol station. Here we had coffee, and a quick scan of the surrounding area produced a number of Whinchats and a Yellow Wagtail.

Our next stop was at Rodeanu Lake. The lake was unusually full, and we immediately spotted some Common Pochards, as well as a single Ferruginous Duck. Three Black-tailed Godwits flew in, and several Greylag Geese were out in the open water. Unfortunately, at this point, it started to rain, so we retreated to the bus to continue our journey.

Our second comfort stop was even more rewarding. Some of us ambled across the road and were rewarded with a singing Lesser Whitethroat. Looking up, we were delighted to observe a soaring male Levant Sparrowhawk.

Our next stop was at Lake Hazarlac. We pulled the van off the road, got out, and were immediately met by two dogs, hoping to receive some handouts. Out on the lake there were plenty of birds and we worked our way along with the telescope. Many Ruffs were present, a few beginning to moult into breeding plumage. Wood Sandpipers fed in among them, along with a few Little Stints. A Little Ringed Plover ran along just in front of us, and we admired its bright yellow eye-ring. Some Whiskered Terns perched on the mud, while others hawked for insects, along with both Black and White-winged Terns. Two Ruddy Shelducks with ducklings and Garganey were present, along with Common and Red-crested Pochards. Two Glossy Ibises were feeding in the shallow water, and some Pygmy Cormorants were in the reeds. In terms of raptors, Marsh Harriers and a White-tailed Eagle were present, and a Booted Eagle flew over. A Hoopoe and Cuckoo flew along the lake margin. On our way from the lake, a Purple Heron watched our departure from a reedbed.

Our final call was to a small grassy hill, where Stone-curlew had been seen. Eventually we picked out one, then two of these amazingly camouflaged birds. A Crested Lark hopped about in the grass as we scanned the hillside.

Tulcea was our final destination, and on arrival at the Danube river boat which would be home for the next few nights, we gratefully imbibed the sour cherry liqueur offered, had an excellent dinner, and went to bed.

Day 5

Sunday 3rd May

It was cold, but dry and mostly sunny when we embarked on our smaller boat and headed off down the Sulina channel, one of the major arteries of the Danube delta. Almost immediately, we turned off this channel onto a smaller one heading north. Entering this small channel was like going into a different world. The vegetation hung over the water on both sides and, sheltered from the wind, a silence descended, broken only by birdsong. We started to see Kingfishers at regular intervals, as darts of blue across the channel. We encountered many on this short stretch: it was ideal habitat, with high banks for nesting and overhanging vegetation for use as fishing perches.

Eventually we entered a small lake. A pair of Red-necked Grebes was a highlight here, as well as soaring White-tailed eagles and flotillas of majestic Great White Pelicans. The harsh calls of Whiskered Terns were a background chorus, although they were almost drowned out by the calls of frogs from the reedbeds.

Back in the channel, a movement on the riverbank caused us to halt the boat suddenly to investigate. A Golden Jackal peered back at us from the long grass. Not particularly alarmed, it watched us for a short time, before disappearing into the undergrowth.

Lakes Cotete and Cazanel were next, and here we picked up both Black and White-winged Terns. A pair of lovely Black-necked Grebes were close to a group of Red-necked Grebes, and Great Crested Grebes were also present.



Kingfisher



Roller



White-winged Tern



White-tailed Eagle

Moving into the even larger Lake Fortuna, we again saw all three 'marsh' terns. White-winged Terns do not breed here, but pass through on their way north. As we crossed this large lake, we were admiring more Black-necked Grebes when a small gull caught our attention: our first Little Gull of the trip. Over near the shore we could see a pink mass: these were roosting Great White Pelicans showing their characteristic rosy breasts. Coming out of the lake into narrower channels again, we had nice views of a Hobby perched in the trees. Two Dalmatian Pelicans on a log gave us our best views so far of this species. We eventually emerged on the Sulina channel again and made rendezvous with our floating hotel for lunch.

After lunch, we sailed east on the main channel. From the elevated roof, we had good views over the dykes bordering the channel. When we turned south off the Sulina channel, where there was much less boat traffic and where we were able to see more birds. A Common Buzzard flew over and Marsh Harriers occurred regularly, while a Roller perched obligingly in full view. Two Hoopoes were on a log near the channel, and a pair of Gadwalls were

the first of the trip. After a couple of hours, we tied up and the group boarded the small boat for further exploration.

We travelled back along the channel to visit two more lakes. Swan Nest Lake was busy with birds in the evening sunshine, and we managed to see, in the reeds, Great Reed and Savi's Warblers, and two female Bearded Reedlings. The second lake, Iacob, was bathed in warm sunshine, and four Great White and one Dalmatian Pelicans on a log made for a wonderful image. On the way back, we enjoyed views of two Golden Jackals as they ran along the bank of the channel. Then we returned to our floating hotel as the light began to fade.

Day 6

Monday 4th May

Before breakfast, many of us went out on deck to savour an early morning in the delta. In the vegetation immediately beside us we could hear Golden Oriole, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Garden Warbler, Cuckoo and Lesser Whitethroat. Further up the channel, a Golden Jackal emerged briefly. We were struck by the rich variety of species experienced in a short time.

After breakfast we set off for the village of Caraorman. The sun shone as we progressed along the reed-fringed channels. Squacco Herons flew up periodically as we went by, and overhead was a constant traffic of Pygmy and Great Cormorants going about their day. Marsh Harriers appeared regularly, and occasional waders vocalised from the edges of the channel. Our first visit was to the abandoned fish farm near the village. This is now an extensive reedbed, with a host of typical inhabitants of such habitat. Savi's, Common Reed and Great Reed Warblers were all singing. We had just disembarked when we heard a Grey-headed Woodpecker very close. We were still admiring this bird when the soft whistle of a Penduline Tit drew our attention, and we turned to admire this exquisite little bird. Bee-eaters and a single Red-footed Falcon flew overhead.

From time to time the call of a Bittern was heard, although none actually showed itself. Out on the water, Ferruginous Ducks, Red-crested Pochards, and Black-necked and Red-necked Grebes were all located. Marsh Harriers flew by on a regular basis. We then rejoined our boat to go to the village. On the narrow channel, we passed a small pool which held not just Glossy Ibises, but also two summer-plumaged Spotted Redshanks. Two hanging Penduline Tit nests were also observed.

We berthed at the village and disembarked to the customary welcome of dogs: in this case some adorable puppies. The village, an abandoned factory from the communist era, has an eerie but compelling quality, in part generated by the way wildlife has taken over. As we headed along the road, Northern Wheatears were spotted on the abandoned buildings and in the pool below the bridge, Glossy Ibises and Ruffs fed unconcernedly. Out in the abandoned pools, Avocets, a Black-winged Stilt, Ruffs and Wood Sandpipers fed in the shallow water. In the next pool, a large group of birds were too far away to be identified, but we did pick out a prominent Caspian Tern. Overhead, the calls of Bee-eaters, mostly flying high, were a constant accompaniment.

After lunch we set off west to reposition the floating hotel. Several Rollers were visible, indicating that they were arriving after their migration from Africa. We moored the floating hotel and boarded the small boat for further exploration. We entered a small lake (Ciulini) with a lot of floating vegetation, and were dazzled by many pairs of Black-necked and Red-necked Grebes, and other species. As we left this lake, a Hobby perched in a tree, in excellent light. A little further on, we had a dramatic adult White-tailed Eagle on top of a dead tree.

Over lake Trei Lezere, Whiskered and Black Terns fed avidly. Several groups of Black-necked Grebes were present, but all eyes were on the two Pallas's Gulls which put in a brief appearance, which made for a fine end to a busy and rewarding day.

Day 7

Tuesday 5th May

This morning, we set out again to explore the small channels and lakes. The weather was sunny and warm. A Kingfisher flew across our path early on: perhaps a good omen? On the smaller lakes, nesting activity was in full swing, with Black-necked and Red-necked Grebes interspersed between Whiskered Terns nest-building on the lily pads. Cormorants criss-crossed our path and, overhead, Marsh Harriers were regularly encountered, along with a single male Montagu's Harrier. Great Reed Warblers sang from their customary perches just under the reeds' seed heads, and the buzzing song of Savi's Warblers was a constant background sound.

Bogdan used an area of floating reedbed to talk about the formation and importance of this habitat. When the reeds, which are annual, die back in the autumn, the decaying material sinks. In the anaerobic conditions in the lake, H₂S (marsh gas) is formed. When the water level rises in the spring, the marsh gas under the vegetation can raise it off the lake bed, so that it forms a floating mat. When this mat reaches the surface, it becomes reoxygenated and a variety of plants, including ferns, can grow, thus increasing biodiversity. This floating reedbed is internationally important, and is used, for example, by White Pelicans to build their nests on. The gas rising beneath the nest can raise the temperature by a degree or two, which can be critical. A good indicator of a floating reedbed is the fern *Thelypteris palustris*, which cannot tolerate flooding. Its presence therefore indicates that the reed mat indeed goes up and down with changing water levels.

At a junction between two channels, we paused and played the call of Black Woodpecker: no response. We played it again, and suddenly we had both Black Woodpeckers in the air flying towards us. What a show! But that was not all: another Black Woodpecker was soon encountered, this one systematically dismantling a dead branch. Large pieces of bark were periodically falling to the ground beneath.

Another memorable encounter was with Bearded Reedlings. In this case, the male came quite close to inspect us, allowing excellent views. On return to the floating hotel, we were pleased to interrupt our lunch to admire the huge White-tailed Eagle nest, one of the young being clearly visible.

After lunch, we repaired to the upper deck for the journey back towards Tulcea. The sun was warm as we sat contentedly, taking in the scenery and looking for wildlife. The occasional White-tailed Eagle sailed majestically overhead. Another highlight was a Black Woodpecker, albeit glimpsed only briefly. Then we were back in Tulcea, in time for a walk around the waterfront after dinner.

Day 8

Wednesday 6th May

Today, we set off to explore the Dobroudja area to the south of Tulcea. A few Bee-eaters flew over the bus as we arrived at Parches Hill. As we emerged from the bus, we picked out the upright forms of Souseliks in the grass, and we stopped to have a better look at these little ground squirrels. As we walked on the short grass, we saw our first Isabelline Wheatears of the trip, as well as Tawny Pipits. A Long-legged Buzzard and Red-footed Falcon drifted overhead.

On the brow of the hill, we had a magnificent view out over an area of completely natural floodplain, one of the few remaining in the Danube system. Just below us was a long shallow stretch of river, which had been cut off when the river changed its course following the deposition of sediment when water levels were high. This section had its water levels replenished through periodic flooding. Beyond it was a flat plain, covered in reed beds. Almost at the horizon, a line of trees indicated the present course of the river. Beyond that, in Ukraine, large lakes were visible, caused by floodwater being unable to reach the Danube because sedimentation had raised the river above the level of the surrounding land. This was a beautiful, truly natural, river landscape.

Our next stop was at the wooded steppe at Somova. The widely spaced trees were very reminiscent of the Spanish *dehesa*, except that these were Pedunculate Oaks, not Cork Oaks. Almost immediately, we found a Lesser Grey Shrike, its rose-tinted breast clear in the bright sun. As we approached, it became clear that there were three, all apparently adults. They were interacting, but it was not clear what was going on: two males fighting for a female's attention, perhaps? Overhead, two Short-toed Snake Eagles circled slowly. We located a further pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes, and then a Red-backed Shrike, and were able to discuss the differences.

Moving on again, we parked near the monastery of Celic De're. This was also a wood pasture landscape, with many Walnut and Wild Pear trees dotted in among clumps of Hawthorn and other shrubs. Woodlarks serenaded us as we walked along the track and into the wood. A Middle Spotted Woodpecker dived into a hole in a tree, and we observed it for some time: the bird was later seen foraging in other trees. The song of Red-breasted Flycatcher was picked up, and after a brief search we had great views of the bird. We also were able to pick out Wood Warblers, and a Sparrowhawk flashed through in typical fashion. Down on the path, we had fine views of Hawfinches coming and going at a muddy patch of river bank. We then walked down to the river for our picnic.

Our final visit of the day was to the Macin Mountains National Park. We walked up a rough track towards the hills, where Corn Buntings serenaded us and, high above, another Long-legged Buzzard soared. Where a spring had made the path damp, many butterflies were active: Queen of Spain Fritillary, Green-underside Blue and Scarce Swallowtail were among them. Near our highest point, we found a Saddle-backed Bush-cricket, with impressive green armour.

On our way back down, we eventually picked out a male Pied Wheatear right at the top of the rocks, but it was time to board the bus and head back to our accommodation in Tulcea.

Day 9

Thursday 7th May

This morning, we set off into the Dobroudja region, with our first port of call being the isolated hill at Deniz Tepe, sometimes called the 'sleeping elephant'. On exiting the bus, we quickly picked up Isabelline and Northern Wheatears, Tawny Pipit and several Corn Buntings. Crested Larks and Skylarks were also abundant. High above, a Long-legged Buzzard soared effortlessly. The call of a Stone-curlew diverted us, but we could not locate it. Bee-eaters flew overhead at regular intervals, but often high up. A Spanish Sparrow on an electricity pole was difficult to identify in the sun and, following that, we decided to move on.

Our next stop was at the Dobroudja gorge, which appears rather unexpectedly in an otherwise flat plain. Here, we found a wheatear which had the characteristics of both Pied and Black-eared, but it flew, and we were not able to

confirm which species it was, or whether it was a hybrid! A Levant Sparrowhawk flew over our heads. On the top of the ridge, we found a singing Ortolan Bunting, and everyone got a reasonable view.

A little further on, we stopped at a wooded bend of the river for lunch. A Saker Falcon flew over, causing some excitement. We were just finishing lunch when a Syrian Woodpecker was spotted in a nearby tree. It soon became clear that there were two birds, which were presumably nesting nearby.

Our last site of the day was the strange settlement of Vadu, on the Black Sea coast. Here a large and mouldering industrial complex is slowly disintegrating. This monument to a failed communist-era enterprise was in stark contrast to the surroundings, which were rich in biodiversity. As we watched birds on the wet flushes, we were serenaded by Marsh Frogs calling from all around us, and the occasional squeal of a Water Rail was heard. Shovelers snorkled along, their heads underwater. Numerous Ruffs fed busily, with the occasional Curlew Sandpiper and Common Ringed Plover. A black wader caught our eye: it was a magnificent Spotted Redshank in summer plumage. In the short vegetation, a number of Collared Pratincoles, some standing about and some flying, were the first of the trip.

As we headed for the beach, we stopped the van to admire a pair of Red-footed Falcons next to a nest in a low bush. Finally, passing the last pond before the beach, a single Common Sandpiper bobbed along the concrete surround. There was just time for a quick visit to the beach, before we had to set off on the return journey.

Day 10

Friday 8th May

On our final day, we were woken by the singularly Romanian chorus of barking dogs, crowing cockerels and braying Caspian Gulls. Then we set off early on our journey back to Bucharest. An earlyish earlier flight time meant that we did not have time for any birding stops, but the weather was good, and we had an uneventful journey back. We arrived in good time for our return flight to London.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced		April - May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
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 Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymartus melba</i>			✓							
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Feral Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</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>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
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>					✓	✓	✓			
Eurasian Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>				✓					H	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>									✓	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						✓			✓	
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						✓			✓	
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									✓	
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				✓		✓				
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓		✓				
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>					✓					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					✓				✓	
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>					✓	✓	✓			
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</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>									✓	
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>						✓				

I=Introduced		April - May 2026										
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</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>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
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>					H	H					
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					✓	✓	✓				
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓				
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>									✓		
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>	✓	✓						✓			
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>				✓				✓			
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Tachyspiza brevipes</i>				✓				✓	✓		
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>								✓			
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						✓					
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>							✓				
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>								✓	✓		
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</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>				✓		✓	H	✓	✓		
Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>					H						
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>								✓			
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>					✓						
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>								H	✓		
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					H		✓				
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>				H							
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					H	✓	✓				
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

I=Introduced		April - May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>				✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>									✓	
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>			✓							
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>						H		✓		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								✓	✓	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>								✓	✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern 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>		✓	✓							
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			✓							
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>			✓	✓						
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		✓	✓	✓	H	✓	✓	H	✓	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						✓	✓			
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>					✓	✓	✓		✓	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								H		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				H				H	✓	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>				✓				✓	✓	
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>									✓	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>		✓		✓			✓		✓	
European Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis rufula</i>								✓		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>									H	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			✓			✓				
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>								✓		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>		✓				H				
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	H	✓	H	H	H	H	H	H	✓	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					✓	✓	✓		H	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							✓			
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H	H	✓		H	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					✓	H	✓		✓	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	H			✓	H	H	H			
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						H		H		
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>				H	H	✓	✓			
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	✓	H						
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓							
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			✓							
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>								✓		
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓	H					H		
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			✓		✓					
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

I=Introduced		April - May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓	✓	✓							
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>									✓	
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	H						
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>				H	H	H	H			
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								H	H	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>								✓		
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		✓	✓		H		H			
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			✓		✓	✓	H	H		
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>						✓	✓		✓	
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓								
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		✓	✓							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>						✓		✓	✓	
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>								H		
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								✓		
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓						✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	H	✓	H		✓		
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>		✓								
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				✓				✓	✓	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>									✓	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					H	✓	✓			

Mammals

		April - May 2026										
Common name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>					✓				✓		
Montane Water Vole	<i>Arvicola monticola</i>		✓									
Eurasian Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>			✓								
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								✓	✓		
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		✓					✓				
Carpathian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra carpatica</i>			✓								
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>			✓	✓		✓			✓		
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					✓	✓					
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>		✓									

Amphibians & reptiles

Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026									
		29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>					H	H	✓	✓	H	
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>								✓		
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>							✓		✓	
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>							✓			

Butterflies

Common name	Scientific name	April - May 2026									
		29	30	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>								✓		
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>								✓		
Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus armoricanus</i>								✓		
Pale Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias hyale</i>						✓				
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>								✓		
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>						✓	✓	✓		
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>									✓	
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>									✓	
Common Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>								✓		
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>									✓	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>								✓		
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>								✓		
Brown Argus	<i>Arícia agestis</i>						✓		✓		
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>								✓		
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>						✓		✓		
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>								✓		
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>								✓		
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>								✓		

Other insects

Common name	Scientific name
Seven-spot ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>
a longhorn beetle	<i>Morismus asper</i>
Bronze Bush-cricket	<i>Bradyporus dasypus</i>
Saddle-backed Bush-cricket	<i>Ephippiger ephippiger</i>

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
Cystopteridaceae	Bladder Fern Family
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	Brittle Bladder Fern
Onocleaceae	Sensitive Fern Family
<i>Onoclea struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich Fern
Thelypteridaceae	Marsh Fern Family
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern
Pinaceae	Pine Family
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European Larch

Scientific name	Common name
Nymphaeaceae	Water-lily Family
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	European Yellow Water-lily
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water-soldier
Melanthiaceae	Bunchflower Family
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False Hellebore
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
Asparagaceae	Asparagus Family
<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Common Solomon's-seal
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Isopyrum thalictroides</i>	False Rue Anemone
<i>Hepatica nobilis</i>	a hepatica
<i>Hepatica transsilvanica</i>	a hepatica
<i>Adonis flammea</i>	Pheasant's-eye
<i>Delphinium elatum</i>	Alpine Delphinium
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>	European Wood Anemone
<i>Anemonoides ranunculoides</i>	Yellow Anemone
Saxifragaceae	Saxifrage Family
<i>Chrysoplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga cuneifolia</i>	Wedge-leaved Saxifrage
<i>Saxifraga paniculata</i>	Alpine Saxifrage
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Lathyrus vernus</i>	Spring vetch
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Common Quince
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common Pear
<i>Potentilla thuringiaca</i>	Thuringian Cinquefoil
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Rosa pendulina</i>	Mountain Rose
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary Cinquefoil
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
Fagaceae	Beech Family
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family
<i>Juglans regia</i>	White Walnut
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Common Wood Sorrel
Violaceae	Violet Family
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Dog violet
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	Wild Pansy
Salicaceae	Willow Family
<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
Euphorbiaceae	Spurge Family
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i>	Steppe Spurge

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge
Linaceae	Flax Family
<i>Linum usitatissimum</i>	Common Flax
Geraniaceae	Crane's-bill Family
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Common Herb-Robert
Anacardiaceae	Sumac Family
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Common Smoke-tree
Sapindaceae	Soapberry Family
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
Resedaceae	Mignonette Family
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale
Brassicaceae	Cabbage Family
<i>Noccaea caerulescens</i>	Alpine Pennycress
<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	Wild Cabbage
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrow-leaved Bittercress
Loranthaceae	Showy Mistletoe Family
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Yellow-berried Mistletoe
Polygonaceae	Knotgrass Family
<i>Rumex alpinus</i>	Monk's-rhubarb
Caryophyllaceae	Campion Family
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly
<i>Stellaria aquatica</i>	Water Chickweed
Amaranthaceae	Amaranth Family
<i>Salicornia europaea</i> agg.	Glasswort
Cornaceae	Dogwood Family
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Common Dogwood
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff
Apocynaceae	Periwinkle Family
<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	Herbaceous Periwinkle
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Pulmonaria rubra</i>	Red Lungwort
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Field Gromwell
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort
<i>Thymus zygioides</i>	a thyme
<i>Thymus pannonicus</i>	Pannonic Thyme
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	Horehound
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Anthemis arvensis</i>	Corn Chamomile
<i>Centaurea thirkei</i>	Thirke's Star-thistle

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
<i>Petasites albus</i>	White Butterbur
Caprifoliaceae	Honeysuckle Family
<i>Valeriana montana</i>	Mountain Valerian
Araliaceae	Aralia Family
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle
Apiaceae	Umbellifer Family
<i>Smyrniium perfoliatum</i>	Perfoliate Alexanders
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>	Bur Parsley
Fumariaceae	Fumitory Family
<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Bird-in-a-bush
Thymelaeaceae	Daphne Family
<i>Daphne mezereum</i>	Mezereum
Adoxaceae	Moschatel Family
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Danewort