

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

10th – 19th May 2026



Great Reed Warbler



Golden Jackal



Lesser Grey Shrike



European Souslik

Tour report by Andy Bunten



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Tour participants: Andy Bunten and Bogdan Moldovan (leaders) with 13 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Sunday 10th May

To Bucharest

Three clients plus Andy took an uneventful flight to Bucharest, arriving at 2.00pm, where we met another eight clients who had either landed earlier that day, or had spent a few days getting to know Bucharest before the trip. We boarded the bus and headed off to Zarnesti, with a brief stop on the way for coffee, during which we saw a Blackcap and some Field Crickets. At our hotel we met the final two members of our group, who had travelled independently by train, partook of a very filling meal, and went to bed.

Day 2

Monday 11th May

Zarnesti Gorge and the Magura plateau

We woke to a fabulous day, with a clear blue sky. A few people had a pre-breakfast stroll and found Dipper, Black Redstart and wheeling House Martins. After breakfast, we travelled the short distance to Zarnesti Gorge, where we immediately found a Red-breasted Flycatcher singing just above our heads. A little further along we hunted successfully for Fire Salamanders, finding a pair probably mating (or about to do so after we'd abandoned our prurient curiosity). The gorge was its usual magnificent self, with beautiful Grey Wagtails, Black Redstarts and Marsh Tits keeping us occupied, before Bogdan found a couple of Carpathian Chamois languidly chewing the cud high on a grassy slope and giving us great scoping opportunities. Shortly after that, we found a Peregrine Falcon swooping across the sky, and Crag Martins visiting a nest, before we settled down to search for Wallcreepers.

This quest exceeded everyone's wildest hopes. After a brief view of a male emerging from a hole, we then had it strutting along a wall of rock, low down, and right in front of us. It flew into a crack in the cliff, where a female joined it, before flying to a nearby perch. We could hear the male singing from the crevice, before the lure of its glissando proved too much for the female, who returned to the crack and mated with the male, before they flew off again.

As if that wasn't enough, some very sharp eyes in the group found a Pine Marten lurking in a hole, fairly low down, and remaining there for fabulous extended views, including through the telescope. Amazing!

Exhausted by our fortune, we lay around an open area among Green-veined Whites and Orange-tips while we had our lunch, before gently walking back down the gorge, finding more Fire Salamanders on the way, plus Alpine Snowbells and Yellow Anemones, among other lovely plants

Back in the bus, we went up the hill in light rain to a marvellous café for post-Wallcreeper tea, coffee, hot chocolates and, in some cases, even cakes. A gentle walk down to the valley bottom brought us a brief but exhilarating view of a Goshawk being harried by a Kestrel. Marsh and Coal Tits were found, as well as many Green-winged Orchids and Cowslips galore, plus some fruiting Oxlips; this was just wonderful big Beech tree woodland. Our final thrill before returning back to the hotel was some quite recent Brown Bear footprints, expertly found by our tracker Bogdan. What a day it had been!

Day 3

Tuesday 12th May

Rasnov Gorge – Bran – Stramba Valley – Brown Bear hide

An early morning walk for some of the group produced a singing Red-breasted Flycatcher, Dipper, Garden Warbler, Common Swift, House Martin and Barn Swallow, plus Fieldfares 'chacking' in the garden. After breakfast we headed to Rasnov Gorge, where an army on manoeuvres and playing on zip wires somewhat interrupted our solitude. Nonetheless we found Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Peregrine Falcon, Alpine Swift, Marsh Tits, Ravens and a lovely Common Buzzard perched low on a bush. While Bogdan scrambled up a slope to try and locate a Rock Bunting he'd heard, the rest of us found a lovely male Red-backed Shrike and some very attractive Star-of-Bethlehem flowers. The huge leaves and tall inflorescences of White Butterbur were everywhere along this valley, but we abandoned them rapidly when a deluge of rain led to an Usain Bolt-worthy sprint back to the bus.

We visited Bran Town for three-quarters of an hour, to see the outside of the impressive castle and to find Nuthatches, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Lesser Whitethroat in the grounds, with Common Swifts screaming around the castle itself. Then it was back to hotel for a late and very filling lunch: soup, chips and sausages, followed by an enormous dumpling with fruit and cream.

After the post-lunch torpor had worn off, we made our way to the wonderful Stramba Valley. En route, we saw a Common Buzzard, and had a brief view of Lesser Spotted Eagle dive bombing its smaller cousin as we scrambled out of the coach to try to see the fun.

We walked along the valley, occasionally taking rain shelter in the coach as we progressed. Red-backed Shrikes and a gorgeous singing Yellowhammer were in evidence, a Honey Buzzard did a near perfect fly-over; a Corncrake sang from the grassy depths, and another Lesser Spotted Eagle stalked around in a field before flying off.

We met our bear guide and drove up the long track to our disembarkation point, only to be met immediately by a reception committee of a female Brown Bear with two cubs! Eventually, and thanks to some brave bear-whispering by Bogdan, they moved on, thus allowing us to walk to the hide and have spectacularly good views of the comings and goings of nine Bears. They included a massive male, a lovely coffee-coloured youngster with an irresistible back itch, and some very wary females.

After this ursine treat, we drove back along the valley, seeing nervous Roe Deer emerging from the shadows, Cuckoos plying their parasitic trade, and some torrential rain.

Day 4

Wednesday 13th May

Zarnesti to Tulcea

The rain was still around in the morning, so most of us just contented ourselves with watching the local Black Redstarts, hirundines and Fieldfares before we packed up and headed east. At our first service station stop we found Skylark, Corn Bunting, Rook and Common Kestrel, and our 1.00pm stop at Rodeanu Lake near Jilavele produced Marsh Harrier floating over the reedbed, two distant Black-necked Grebes, Sand Martins, Roller and a

very noisy Great Reed Warbler. Hoopoes, Great Egrets, Black-winged Stilts and lots of White Storks on their nests enlivened our drive, until we reached the lake at Harsalac where we found a positive cornucopia of birdlife.

The rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm, and we found Glossy Ibis and White Pelicans, Whiskered and Black Terns, Wood Sandpipers and Ruffs, Ferruginous Ducks, Ruddy Shelducks, Gadwalls and Red-crested Pochards, Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Grey and Purple Herons, plus two Little Gulls, one of which was suddenly set upon and devoured by a predatory Hooded Crow. Birds were everywhere at this site, as was a herd of hungry cattle which nosed their way through our bedraggled bodies in search of fodder.

We were close to Tulcea now, but made one last (muddy) stop at a steppe area, where Bogdan's sharp eyes picked out a Stone-curlew, while an Isabelline Wheatear hopped around the rocks and a Hoopoe preened in the rain. Then it was to our fabulous 'floatel' on the Danube, with a cherry brandy greeting and the first of many fabulous meals.

Day 5

Thursday 14th May

Danube delta – Channel 36 – Fortuna Lake – Sulina Branch

After a fairly early breakfast, we boarded the small boat and headed off into the smaller channels of this astonishing delta, where the water levels seemed lower than usual this year. We heard the first of many singing Common Redstarts, and saw a pair of Goldeneyes take off from the main channel and a couple of dingy-looking Dalmatian Pelicans flap by. In 'Kingfisher Alley' we found, of course, loads of Kingfishers, as well as a Hobby perched nicely in an overhanging tree, and singing Thrush Nightingales and Collared Flycatchers. Woodpeckers were also in evidence, with good views of Grey-headed, calling Black and drumming Great Spotted. As always there were Cuckoos galore, chasing each other around with calls of both males and bubbling females in surround-sound.

Ahead of us, in a narrow channel, Great Cormorants and various egrets indulged in a feeding frenzy, with Night and Grey Herons launching themselves out of the bushes. We glided into some of the delta's lakes, where Whiskered Terns 'sneezed' overhead and we had great sport picking out the less frequent Black Terns. Great Crested and Black-necked Grebes sailed around, increasing numbers of Squacco Herons made an appearance, and White-tailed Eagles perched in dead trees. Great Reed, Common Reed and Icterine Warblers sang from the channel sides, while Bee-eaters, Rollers, Hobbies and Stock Doves flew overhead. We had excellent views of a Black Woodpecker, a Spotted Flycatcher, a brace of Golden Orioles, and to cap it all an amazingly close Black Stork.

In Lac Fortuna, we experienced another example of cooperative feeding between White Pelicans and Great Cormorants, with various terns hovering above and picking up the pieces. Around us a myriad of tiny flies were being scooped up by Sand Martins as we made our way back to the floatel for a late lunch.

Off on the small boat again at 5.00pm, we quickly found a lovely male Marsh Harrier and a male and female Yellow Wagtail scooting along the water's edge. Rollers were becoming commonplace, and we had our best view of Red-footed Falcons thus far: close, hovering males. While we searched for a buzzing Savi's Warbler, we had our first view of a Golden Jackal, watching us from the long grass before it skulked off. A Eurasian Bittern boomed from the reeds before we first heard, and then had excellent views of Penduline Tits, with willow seed fluff in their beaks.

The evening light was fantastic as we watched Hoopoes on the banks, and feeding Bee-eaters and flocks of hirundines. A Little Ringed Plover caught our attention before another Golden Jackal was seen, this time well and truly out in the open. Our last mammal was a big, one-eyed cat which looked very suspiciously at us from bankside vegetation. We did our best to make it into a wildcat, but had to settle for a domestic moggy, albeit a feral and savage-looking one!

Day 6

Friday 15th May

Caraorman island – northern area of delta

Today was a much sunnier, warmer and drier day than yesterday, and those up early and on the top of our floatel heard and saw Golden Oriole, Garden Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Common Redstart, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Roller and Cuckoo. Nourished by breakfast, we reboarded the small boat and very quickly had fabulous views of a very close Great Reed Warbler: we could see its red throat and almost the breath from the beak! A Red-backed Shrike in a bush was quickly followed by Lesser Grey Shrike, Hoopoe and some lovely Yellow Wagtails.

We had a good opportunity to compare and contrast some nearby scruffy-looking Dalmatian Pelicans with glamorous White Pelicans, while a few Glossy Ibises, probing in the shallow water, looked wonderfully burnished in the sun. To round off the colour spectrum, two shining Golden Orioles flew alongside among the trees.

We walked the plank off the boat and onto a bank where had the most amazing views of Penduline Tits, heard a Bittern booming and a Water Rail calling, and saw a distant Red-necked Grebe and the biggest pig in Christendom slumbering in the bushes.

Back on the boat, we headed towards Caraorman Island, via some reeds where we had good views of female Bearded Reedlings. The island itself held Bee-eaters and Rollers on just about every wire; Common and Ruddy Shelducks vied with Black-winged Stilts and Avocets for our attention, and we found Caspian Terns and a hulking Pallas's Gull dwarfing the nearby Common Terns.

On our drift back to the mother ship for lunch we had excellent views of male Garganeys, Yellow Wagtails (of both Black- and Blue-headed subspecies), a fabulous Roller and yet another Golden Jackal.

Lunch was, as usual, delicious, and made even more so as we drifted along gazing at the passing scenery as we ate. More Rollers appeared, plus another Golden Jackal, more White-tailed Eagles and Marsh Harriers galore as we enjoyed our marvellous food.

Around 6.00pm we left the boat for a sail around the northern areas of the delta, where a lake crossing produced a lively colony of Black-headed Gulls, Whiskered, Common and Black Terns, Black-necked, Great Crested and Red-necked Grebes, as well as Grey, Purple and Night Herons.

The sun was low and Savi's Warblers were singing as we made our way gently back to the floatel, watching the synchronised feeding of the White Pelicans, with clamorous Great Reed Warblers and repetitive Cuckoos in the background.

Day 7

Saturday 16th May

Northern Delta – Tulcea

The early morning watch was focussed on finding the elusive singing Savi's Warbler. And we had success, eventually tracking it down for good telescope views. It was another beautiful day as we made off for our last trip out on the small boat at around 9.00am. A Golden Oriole sang flutily, we had great views of a very smart male Bearded Reedling, six Little Gulls sailed past, and we had wonderful views of a huge 'kettle' of White Pelicans swirling high into the sky. A male Grey-headed Woodpecker and a couple of Red-necked Grebes performed well for us, before Bogdan gave a fascinating lecture about the immense, and vitally important, floating reedbeds, with their associated ferns and flowering plants.

In a small lake where Water Mint and Water Soldier prospered, we saw more Red-necked Grebes, and had yet more wonderful views of dashing Black and Whiskered Terns. A European Pond Terrapin, delightfully yellow-spotted, plopped into the water, Bee-eaters and Rollers cavorted around sandy banks and telephone wires, and we watched a Black Woodpecker peering cautiously out of her nest hole. A huge White-tailed Eagle flapped past us as we returned to our ship for a lovely afternoon's slow sailing to Tulcea.

This was a fabulously relaxing time, as we watched birds from the roof of the floatel while basking in the sun's rays. Wonderful views of White-tailed Eagles, a classic posing Black Woodpecker, yet another Black Stork and yet another Golden Jackal were among our sightings on this magical return to port.

Day 8

Sunday 17th May

Around Tulcea – wooded grassland walk – Celik-Dere – Macin

We headed west on this fabulously warm and sunny morning, to overlook the delta from a high viewpoint. A Souselik appeared and vanished, a Long-legged Buzzard stayed a little longer, and a Spur-thighed Tortoise was our captive for a brief period. This open area also produced another Lesser Grey Shrike, a smart Isabelline Wheatear, and more views of the spectacular Pallas's Gulls.

We moved to a '*dehesa*'-like woodland, where we had so many ornithological highlights: two very close Levant Sparrowhawks, two Lesser Grey and two Red-backed Shrikes, a Woodlark, two Woodchat Shrikes, a Tawny Pipit, two Red-rumped Swallows, a dashing Golden Oriole and two Turtle Doves. Phew!

Our next stop was Celic Dere Monastery where we heard the distinctive squeaky song of an Icterine Warbler, the truly gorgeous sibilant song of a Wood Warbler, and had close up views of a male and a female Red-breasted Flycatcher carrying food to their nest at the top of a tall tree stump.

Our lunch, in an area popular with locals, produced a couple of pale-morph Booted Eagles, Common Buzzards, a calling Hawfinch or two, and the rhythmic sound of a neighbouring picnicker's ghetto blaster.



Black Woodpecker



Red-breasted Flycatcher



Pine Marten



Long-legged Buzzard

Our final call of this fabulous day was at the Macin Mountains; we found plenty of Rollers en route, and Isabelline Wheatears on arrival. We walked up the gentle slope, hearing Corn Buntings and Common Nightingales, and seeing Cardinals, Small Coppers and Wall Browns. A Pied Wheatear was finally tracked down which gave excellent views through the telescope. An Ortolan Bunting sang, we had another fantastic view of a male Levant Sparrowhawk, and a couple of us saw two Short-toed Snake Eagles before they disappeared over distant hills. The title of 'find of the day' belonged to the spectacularly-named Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket, of which a monster specimen strode across our path.

Day 9

Monday 18th May

Around Tulcea: Deniztepe – Babadag – Sinoie – Histria – Jurilovca – Enisala Castle

Once again, the weather was sunny as we headed to an area just outside Tulcea, where we had prolonged close views of Bee-eaters around their colony, while Purple Herons rose from the marsh and Cetti's Warblers sang, explosively, from the vegetation. A Long-legged Buzzard soared overhead and Rollers seemed plentiful. Penduline

Tits and Great Reed Warblers were audible, but the show was stolen by a Little Owl gazing dispassionately at us from a low sand bank.

Our next port of call was the foothill of a hill, Deniztepe, known for attracting raptors. We didn't have to wait long before a Booted Eagle flew right over the top of our bus and, a little while later, two female Montagu's Harriers drifted around low, in search of prey. Hoopoes and Rollers were a common sight, and we found three species of wheatear: Isabelline, Northern and Pied. The hill area also attracted Hares, two of which galloped up to an area where a large flock of sheep slowly trundled through. Skylarks and Greater Short-toed Larks sang overhead, and a Quail's distinctive song came from a nearby field. Corn Buntings sang and Spanish Sparrows quarrelled nearby as we clambered into our coach to travel to Babadag Forest.

Here we found Lady Orchid, among other great plants, and saw Ortolan Bunting and Woodlark too, while a few of us had good views of Golden Oriole. Sadly, we couldn't find Sombre Tit here. All too soon we had to leave, and found our lunch spot by a shrine. We had some excellent views of Red-footed Falcons, Long-legged Buzzards and Spanish Sparrows here while we, and the plentiful, huge mosquitoes all enjoyed a good lunch.

We moved on to Histria marsh, where we found galloping cattle, two Black Kites and enjoyed the amazing sight of around fifty Red-footed Falcons hovering and swooping down to the pasture land. The wetland also had Wigeons, Common Shelducks, Garganey, Black-winged Stilts and Pied Avocets. Our key species here was the elegant Collared Pratincole which, after a false alarm or two, we picked up flying over the damp grassland. Walking back to our coach, we paused at an area of reeds, in the hope that it might be home to a Paddyfield Warbler. The gods smiled on us, because it was: the bird in question popped up onto the reeds to show itself off to us.

We still had a couple of places to look at, the first being Juilovca, where we had some of the best views of Bee-eaters yet (and we'd had a lot of fabulous views), more wonderful Rollers, and excellent views of a pair of romantic Red-crested Pochards.

We stopped at some ancient pasture woodland in the final hope for Sombre Tit, but had to make do with a Great Tit and a Lesser Grey Shrike, before our final call at Enisala Castle, where we examined a curious Souslik through the scope.

We drove back to our accommodation for some farewell sparkling wine and cake, before our departure the following morning.

Day 9

Tuesday 19th May

Tulcea to Bucharest

Once again, it was a lovely sunny day as we headed off towards the airport. We stopped at the Stone-curlew spot, and Bogdan quickly found a Stone-curlew's head (body attached but hidden), and we had excellent views of it, plus some obliging haunch-sitting Sousliks and a displaying Isabelline Wheatear, to the accompaniment of a lusty Corn Bunting.

We passed through the rookery woodland with its Red-footed Falcons, before stopping at Lake Harslak again. As with the Stone-curlew site, the wonderful sun was a stark contrast to the pelting rain of our previous visit. Once

again, Bogdan's sharp eyes picked up a handful of Collared Pratincoles, much nearer and clearer than yesterday's. Also present were familiar friends in the shape of White Pelicans, both cormorant species, rasping Whiskered Terns, a variety of ducks, including Garganey and Ferruginous, our last sighting of a White-tailed Eagle, perched massively in a distant tree, and a new bird, a Little Stint, among the waders, egrets and Glossy Ibises.

Reluctantly, we clambered back onto our bus, waved goodbye to the coterie of dogs that had appeared from nowhere, and headed west to the airport.

At Bucharest we splintered into our different travelling parties, after exchanging contact details and farewells. Bogdan and I would like to thank everyone for being so wonderful! A cheerier, more helpful and more positive group of people would be impossible to imagine: thank you.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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>						✓			✓	✓
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				✓	✓					
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</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>				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>									H	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>		✓	✓							
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓	✓	✓		H		✓	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	H
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H				
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 oedicnemus</i>				✓						✓
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>				✓	✓	✓			✓	
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>								✓		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>				✓						
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										✓
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>									✓	✓
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</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>Ichthyaeetus ichthyaeetus</i>						✓		✓	✓	

I=Introduced		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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>					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>			✓							
Eurasian Goshawk	<i>Astur gentilis</i>		✓								
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>									✓	
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>									✓	
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					✓		✓			✓
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</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>					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					✓		✓			
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	✓	✓	
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>						✓		✓	✓	
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>								✓		
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		✓	✓						✓	
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		May 2026										
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓	✓								
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		✓	✓								
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>						✓	✓				
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>								✓	H		
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>				✓				✓	✓		
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								✓	✓		
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>									H		
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
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>								✓			
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	H	✓	H			
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				H	✓	✓	✓		H	H	
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>									✓		
Common Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					✓	✓	H				
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>					H		H				
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					H	H	✓				
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	✓	H	✓	H	✓	H	H	H			
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			H			✓					
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>		H	H	H	H	✓	H	H	H		
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>	✓										
Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>			H								
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			H								
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		H	✓								
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>		✓	✓								
Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>		✓									
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	✓	H	✓	H	✓		H				
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		H	H								
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					✓						
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		H	✓		✓	H	H				
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					✓	H	H				
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								H		H	
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		✓	✓					✓			
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					H						
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		✓	✓	✓					H	H	
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		H	H		✓	✓	H				

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Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
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>				✓				✓		✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>								H			
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓		✓						
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>			✓	✓	✓						
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>		✓									
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>				H				✓	✓	✓	
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			✓					✓			
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								✓			
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	✓				✓		✓				

Mammals

		May 2026										
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>									✓		
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>								✓	✓	✓	
Western Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>			✓								
Carpathian Chamois	<i>Rupicapra carpatica</i>		✓									
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					✓	✓	✓				
Brown Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>			9								
European Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>		✓									

Amphibians & reptiles

		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Fire Salamander	<i>Salamandra salamandra</i>		✓								
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>					H	✓	✓	✓		
Eastern Slow-worm	<i>Anguis colchica</i>			✓							
Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Dolichophis caspius</i>									✓	
Eastern Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>						✓				
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>								✓		
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>							✓			

Butterflies

		May 2026										
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>									✓		
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>								✓			
Common Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</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>		✓	✓						✓		
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>								✓			
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>						✓					
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>						✓					
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>						✓		✓	✓		
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>								✓			
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>								✓	✓		
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>								✓	✓		
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>								✓			
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>						✓			✓		
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>								✓			

Moths

		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>								✓		
Scarlet Tiger	<i>Callimorpha dominula</i>								✓		

Damselflies & dragonflies

		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>						✓				

Other insects

		May 2026									
Common name	Scientific name	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Field Cricket	<i>Gryllus campestris</i>	H	H	H	H						
Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket	<i>Bradyporus dasypus</i>								✓		
a bush-cricket	Tettigoniidae sp.									✓	
a sedge fly	Trichoptera sp.			✓		✓					
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>								✓	✓	
a ground beetle	<i>Carabus</i> sp.								✓		
a dung beetle	Scarabaeinae sp.			✓							
Leather Beetle	<i>Cychrus caraboides</i>										
Seven-spot Ladybird	<i>Coccinella septempunctata</i>							✓			

Gastropods

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026									
		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Roman Snail	<i>Helix pomatia</i>			✓	✓						
water snail	<i>Cerithioidea</i> sp.						✓	✓			

Selected plants

Scientific name	Common name
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
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
Nymphaeaceae	Water-lily Family
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	European White Water-lily
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	European Yellow Water-lily
Alismataceae	Water-plantain Family
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	Common Arrowhead
Hydrocharitaceae	Frog-bit Family
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water-soldier
Orchidaceae	Orchid Family
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid
Amaryllidaceae	Amaryllis Family
<i>Allium oleraceum</i>	Field Garlic
Typhaceae	Bulrush Family
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Bulrush
Poaceae	Grass Family
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed
Ranunculaceae	Buttercup Family
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Anemonoides nemorosa</i>	European Wood Anemone
<i>Anemonoides ranunculoides</i>	Yellow Anemone
Vitaceae	Vine Family
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Common Grape-vine
Fabaceae	Pea Family
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black Locust
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Hairy Vetch
Polygalaceae	Milkwort Family
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Common Quince
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common Pear
<i>Potentilla thuringiaca</i>	Thuringian Cinquefoil
Urticaceae	Nettle Family
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle

Scientific name	Common name
Fagaceae	Beech Family
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European Beech
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy Oak
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family
<i>Juglans regia</i>	White Walnut
Betulaceae	Birch Family
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Eastern Hornbeam
Oxalidaceae	Wood-sorrel Family
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Common Wood Sorrel
Violaceae	Violet Family
<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
Geraniaceae	Crane's-bill Family
<i>Geranium pratense</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Crane's-bill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Common Herb Robert
Lythraceae	Purple Loosestrife Family
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water-chestnut
Sapindaceae	Soapberry Family
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime
Loranthaceae	Showy Mistletoe Family
<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>	Yellow-berried Mistletoe
Primulaceae	Primrose Family
<i>Primula elatior</i>	Oxlip
<i>Primula veris</i>	Common Cowslip
Rubiaceae	Bedstraw Family
<i>Galium rubioides</i>	Madder-like Bedstraw
Boraginaceae	Borage Family
<i>Symphytum officinale</i> subsp. <i>uliginosum</i>	Common Comfrey
<i>Myosotis laxa</i>	Tufted Forget-me-not
Convolvulaceae	Bindweed Family
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
Plantaginaceae	Plantain Family
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	Spiked Speedwell
Lamiaceae	Dead-nettle Family
<i>Salvia nutans</i>	Nodding Sage
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
Asteraceae	Daisy Family
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk Thistle
<i>Petasites albus</i>	White Butterbur
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	European Yarrow
Viburnaceae	Viburnum Family
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	European Elder
Araliaceae	Aralia Family
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Common Ivy