

Romania:

Danube Delta & Black Sea Coast

Sat 3rd - Sun 11th September 2011



*Trip photos (clockwise, from top left): A flotilla of **White Pelicans**, the Danube delta's signature bird, trawling for fish • Just one of many trip highlights, a magnificent **Great Black-headed Gull** coasts by © photos Zoli Baczó • Autumn migrants on the move included this handsome male **Black-eared Wheatear**... • good numbers of **Red-breasted Flycatchers**... • and even more **Red-backed Shrikes**! • The attractive **Squacco Heron** is still a refreshingly common sight in the Danube delta © photos Peter Kennerley*

report compiled by tour leaders:
Peter Kennerley & Zoli Baczó

Trip Diary

Tour Leaders: Peter Kennerley & Zoli Baczó

with Bernard & Jan Ducker, Sheila Harry, Alastair & Mary Newman, Tom Patterson and Matthew Rathgeber

Limosa's autumn tour to Romania combines a wonderful selection of eastern European birds with a relaxing week-long break along the Black Sea coast and Danube Delta. Here it is possible to watch roadside birds including such delights as Roller, Bee-eater, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes together with scarcer and highly sought after European scarcities such as Levant Sparrowhawk, Great Black-headed Gull and Paddyfield Warbler. By the coast, wetlands and shallow lagoons offer resting spots for many migrant shorebirds including good numbers of Dunlin, Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints, while small groups of Broad-billed, Terek and Marsh Sandpipers add icing to the cake.

By contrast, the second part of our tour includes a four-night stay on a 'ponton' (floating hotel) in the Danube Delta, which provides a wonderfully sublime experience, as we cruise slowly along the backwaters of this unique region. The ponton is actually a well-equipped luxury barge which is slowly towed by a tug-boat. Birding is done from both the ponton and also from two smaller craft which can get along the narrower waterways and into some more remote corners of the delta. Here we visit lakes that we can only dream about in Britain, where Whiskered and Black Terns, Pygmy Cormorants, White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Squacco, Purple, Great White and Night Herons dominate the scene. Woodlands of poplar and willow harbour Rollers, and Lesser Spotted, Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers.

This proved to be a most relaxing and bird-filled week and, with 170+ species recorded, the range and variety of birds is excellent. This tour is ideal for those who really do not like the idea of walking too far during their holiday, and who want good food and plenty of gentle birdwatching. Most excursions made during the four-day stay on the Ponton are done by boat, with very little walking possible or required. Elsewhere, excursions made on foot are mostly over flat ground and taken at a leisurely pace. This really is birding as easy as it comes. As for the birds, it is the wetland birds which make this tour so special, with pelicans, storks, egrets, herons and spoonbills a plenty. Our September tour is timed to coincide with the southbound migration of birds leaving Europe and heading for Africa - and we were not disappointed either, with the likes of Red-backed Shrike, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Golden Oriole regularly encountered. But it was the waders which were the star performers with 30 species recorded during the week - just about as good a variety that it is possible to see in Europe. Add in Romania's second record of Pallid Swift plus several highly sought after Great Black-headed Gulls and it becomes clear that this is an exceptional tour!

Sat 3rd September

After meeting our guide, Zoltan (Zoli), and driver, Lazlo, on arrival at Bucharest airport this afternoon, we set off towards the town of Calarasi on the north side of the Danube, which we reached just before sunset. Along the way it was apparent that most of the harvest had been gathered and fields were largely devoid of birds. At Calarasi, there followed a short wait while we boarded the ferry to cross the river but we were able to enjoy the large numbers of Jackdaws, Rooks and Hooded Crows gathering to roost in the trees by the ferry. After the 20-minute crossing, there followed a short pause for border formalities as we entered Bulgaria, and we finally reached our hotel at Silistra at dusk.

Sun 4th September

We began the day with a pre-breakfast amble in the park by the hotel, where Black Redstart and Red-backed Shrike were followed by a couple of Willow Warblers and a Lesser Whitethroat, all migrants from northern Europe. But the highlight was a very obliging Middle Spotted Woodpecker which put on a nice show, accompanied by a couple of Great Spots.

Following breakfast we re-entered Romania and almost immediately Zoli spotted a swift which he leapt out of the bus to check. We followed and very soon we were watching a couple of Pallid Swifts hurtling over the roof tops. Although the views were rather brief, one bird returned and most of the group saw it well this time. Pallid Swift is a great rarity in Romania and Zoli thought this was only the second occasion that it had been seen in the country, and it was a new bird for Zoli's Romania list. Not a bad start to the day! Much of the remainder of the day was spent travelling to the east towards the Black Sea coast at Mamaia, just north of Constanta. Along the way we made several stops to admire our first Bee-eaters, Pygmy Cormorants and many more Red-backed Shrikes. At a prolonged roadside halt we heard a distant Wryneck calling, watched a couple of Syrian Woodpeckers and glimpsed a (very) distant Little Crake as it skulked amongst the floating vegetation.

Lunch was taken at a derelict cement factory at Canaraua Fetei where hundreds of House Martins were still attending nests. This is one of only a handful of breeding sites for Red-rumped Swallows in the country and we were delighted to watch these attractive hirundines attending their urn-shaped nests. Overhead, a few raptors were moving and while eating lunch we identified two Lesser Spotted Eagles, 14 Honey Buzzards and half a dozen Steppe Buzzards. Add to these Long-legged Buzzard, Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, Goshawk, Hobby and several Red-footed Falcons which we also saw during the day and this was to be one of our best days for migrating raptors.

Once we had reached Mamaia and dropped off the bags, we headed for the refinery pools at Navodari, just 20 minutes up the coast. Although not the most salubrious of sites, it was packed with migrating waders and terns. The highlights were nine juvenile Broad-billed Sandpipers, always a joy to watch, and a couple of Terek Sandpipers – which are quite scarce in Romania and this was only the second time that Zoli had seen two together. Other waders included Marsh, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers, several Black-tailed Godwits, Avocets and Black-winged Stilts, Little and Temminck's Stints, Spotted Redshanks, Greenshanks, Ringed Plovers and much more.

Mon 5th September

The pre-breakfast stroll around the hotel surroundings began with a River Warbler, unfortunately recently deceased, having hit the hotel only moments before we found it. But it enabled everyone to appreciate the subtleties of this skulking *Locustella*, which rarely reveals itself. How many more were lurking nearby?... Over the lake Little Gulls and Common Terns flew back and forth while nearby bushes held several Red-breasted Flycatchers, Willow Warblers and a solitary Icterine Warbler – the only one we saw throughout the week. A moral here, don't miss the optional pre-breakfast walks – you never know what we'll see!

Following breakfast, we drove south to Lake Techirghiol where a Lesser Grey Shrike, a couple of Hoopoes and several Northern Wheatears showed well by the roadside. The lake itself was covered in Black-necked Grebes, while Little, Mediterranean and Yellow-legged Gulls loafed along the lake shores, and Yellow Wagtails darted between their legs. Next was a visit to Vadu, which is a fantastic wetland in spring but was mostly dry at the time of our visit. Despite this, we were rewarded with a fly past by five huge Dalmatian Pelicans, while on the remaining pools a party of three delightful Red-necked Phalaropes spun and cavorted, and several Ferruginous Ducks lounged. Over nearby fields, a party of ten or more Red-footed Falcons hovered and swooped as they followed a ploughing tractor. We finished the day with a return visit to the refinery pools at Navodari, where the spread of waders was similar to those seen the previous day. However, three Slender-billed Gulls were new, and the numbers of terns, particularly Sandwich and Common seemed to have increased.

Tue 6th September

This morning's pre-breakfast stroll revealed a similar range of birds to those seen the previous day, with Redstart, Spotted and Red-breasted Flycatchers being the highlights. We began the morning by heading inland through a vast rolling but rather desolate agricultural landscape punctuated by roadside trees. As we neared the village of Targusor, we enjoyed a wealth of raptors including Kestrel, Hobby, several Marsh and Montagu's Harriers, two or three Levant Sparrowhawks, and several Steppe and Long-legged Buzzards. Again, Red-backed Shrikes abounded and a single Lesser Grey put in an appearance.

The main event of the morning was the visit to the gorge at Cheia – although this is really stretching the definition of a gorge. Nonetheless, it is an important breeding site for Pied Wheatear and they are quite easy to see here in spring. But this late in the season is another matter and after an hour or so of searching we had drawn a blank. In their place, however, we did find a pair of gorgeous Black-eared Wheatears. These birds were both adults and had finished their moult (they have a complete moult after the breeding season before migrating to Africa), so were looking particularly dapper. In fact, Black-eareds are much rarer in Romania than Pied Wheatears but appear to be spreading and increasing in number, and as they favour similar habitats and have a similar ecology perhaps they will ultimately displace the Pieds? Souseliks are a feature of this region and are often to be seen sitting upright on the lookout for predators. They are doubtless the reason why there are so many raptors which prey on them. And right on queue, overheard we watched a Black Stork drift slowly by, followed by a large falcon, clearly a Saker. Before we left this region in the early afternoon we would see a further three or four of these magnificent falcons, presumably migrants, slowly working the hillsides in search of souseliks.

By mid afternoon we reached the coast at the Wolf's peninsula, also known as Grinbul Lubilor, a great wetland with a large flock of White Pelicans feeding in a tight flock on the open water. Although birds were a bit distant here, by carefully scanning we were able to identify a good mix of waders, with three Broad-billed Sandpipers being the best. Amongst the large numbers of roosting Caspian Gulls and Caspian Terns we eventually located two Great Black-headed Gulls, first a distant first-winter bird followed by a much closer moulting adult in non-breeding plumage. This was very much our target bird at this site so we were particularly pleased to locate two birds – it regularly holds small numbers from the breeding colony established in the delta in 2009. Having had such a good day we found that by late afternoon we were running a bit tight on time! But we still managed to see the famous stork's nest built on top of the pile of reeds, and watch a Tawny Pipit feeding in the road before returning to Mamaia, an hour or so drive to the south.

Wed 7th September

A quieter pre-breakfast walk meant an earlier breakfast today, farewell to the staff at the hotel and departure for the delta. Along the way, we found time to call in at Histria in a final attempt to search for and find a Paddyfield Warbler. Although our chances looked bleak – the reedbeds here were just as dry as those at other breeding sites – we eventually heard one call and, by carefully following it up, we had great views of two young birds as they fed low down among the *Phragmites*. Here we also saw a few Skylarks; it seemed strange that larks were so elusive this year, with no Calandra or Short-toed seen.

From Histria, we continued to the hamlet of Murighiol and had picnic lunch by the superb lake that lies just beyond the village. This protected wetland held a fantastic array of birds, the highlights being a pair of White-tailed Eagles which soared overhead, plus a couple of juvenile Collared Pratincoles hawking insects but which stubbornly refused to land. The lake itself held a multitude of duck, including Goldeneye and Pintail, several Black-necked Grebes and lots of waders, a juvenile Sanderling being the most unexpected.

By mid afternoon we joined our ponton (floating hotel) and began the journey deep into the heart of the delta. By following the southernmost of the three main channels (Stantu Gheorghe or St George's channel), we passed several groups of Whiskered Terns feeding low over the water, and saw large numbers of ducks and waders resting along the shores. By going with the current, we made very good progress and moored up close to the hamlet of Stantu Gheorghe (St. George) shortly after dinner.

Thu 8th September

Those who rose early found that we had moored on the opposite bank to the village, and were able to watch a flypast of small numbers of various herons, Caspian Gulls and Whiskered Terns. But the highlight was undoubtedly a male Red-footed Falcon, which flew low directly over our heads.

Following breakfast, we boarded the two smaller boats and slowly made our way along the Turceasca channel to the lagoon behind Sacaline Island. Along the way, Cuckoos and Golden Orioles darted through the trees and often gave good views as they perched in the streamside trees. On reaching the lagoon, the numbers of Whiskered Terns and Squacco Herons increased appreciably and both species gave us wonderful views. As expected in late summer, the water levels in the lagoon were low, meaning we would have to wade ashore. In most cases, this went very smoothly, but one unlucky individual mistimed the disembarkation and got slightly soaked – but his scope was rescued and remained dry (priorities right there then!).

Soon we were walking amongst a wealth of birds loafing and feeding along the shoreline, skulking in the reeds or flying overhead. There are just too many highlights to mention them all, but they included White Pelicans feeding in unison in the shallows; masses of waders, including a single flock containing at least 45 Broad-billed Sandpipers – another great count to add to the exceptional wader passage we were experiencing; groups of Ruff and Wood Sandpipers feeding in the wet grasslands; a couple of Hobbies toying with the waders and snatching dragonflies before returning to land directly in front of us; and flocks of herons and spoonbills. All too soon it was well past lunchtime and time to leave.

The afternoon was spent near the village, where a large lagoon held hundreds of Black-tailed Godwits and Avocets, and smaller numbers of Spotted Redshanks, Greenshanks and Wood Sandpipers. On the adjacent canal we watched a juvenile Little Crane at close quarters creeping about on the floating leaves, completely dwarfed by a nearby Moorhen, and a Black Stork dropped in to feed. As we reached the cover of the trees and bushes, migrants abounded with Red-breasted and Spotted Flycatchers, Willow Warblers and Red-backed Shrikes dominating. A male Redstart sitting on the fence was a nice bonus. But the undoubted highlight and finale to the day was a Grey-headed Woodpecker, initially seen at great distance sitting atop a concrete power pole. Over the course of the next 30 minutes he returned to the pole twice - and in between we walked closer so that on his final appearance he was almost directly overhead! After this, we returned to the ponton for another filling meal - a great way to finish another great day.

Fri 9th September

With overcast skies and a chill wind from the northwest, we opted for an early breakfast then took the boats to the village in search of migrants – these were definitely 'fall' conditions at Cape May... Unfortunately, this wasn't Cape May, the Black Sea isn't the North Atlantic, and birds here don't behave in the same way as their American counterparts! But we walked around the village and found a smattering of migrants: the usual flycatchers, warblers, Red-backed Shrikes etc that we'd come to expect. A couple of Penduline Tits spiced up the walk, calling quietly as they flitted through the Tamarisks, and Caspian Gulls showed well by the jetty. But the highlight was a couple of Little Bitterns which showed very nicely in reeds on the edge of a small pool; the juvenile believed it was invisible while its more experienced father realised this wasn't the case and quickly buried himself deep within the densest patch of reeds.

Clearly, however, this was not a day for migrants, so we returned to the ponton then explored one of the narrow creeks where another Little Bittern, several Golden Orioles, a Great Reed Warbler and a migrating flock of over 200 Bee-eaters travelling south, their liquid calls filling the air, were the highlights.

Following lunch, we made a quick return visit to Sacaline Island which held a similar spread of birds to the previous day although an adult Great Black-headed Gull was an unexpected bonus. White Pelicans continued to fish and tolerate our close proximity, Broad-billed Sands had increased to somewhere beyond the 50 mark, and the usually sleeping Spoonbills treated us to a nice fly past. By 4pm our ponton was on the move again, and those on deck enjoyed a wonderfully lazy but slightly chilly afternoon, enhanced with three Ospreys, numerous Hobbies and, as dusk approached, two flocks of migrating Purple Herons flew steadily southwards in a straggling V-formation over the boat – the first held upwards of 150

birds, followed by a smaller flock of around 50 birds – an amazing experience, made all the better by a wine and cheese aperitif.

Sat 10th September

Our final full day began on the deck of the ponton, with birds abounding in the riverside willows and alders. Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tits (of both the white-headed and darker-headed forms) cavorted, and a Common Treecreeper sang but remained hidden. We took the boats along a narrow tree-lined channel and were treated to outstanding views of a party of Bearded Tits, coming down to feed by the water's edge. Nearby, a Grey-headed Woodpecker sat in the sun and showed well, as did a fine male Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and a Common Treecreeper a few minutes later.

As we neared Erenciuc Lake, we disturbed several roosting Night Herons in the trees above the channel, and as they distracted us an Otter swam across the lake, giving just one boat brief but close views. The lake itself was rather quiet so we returned to the channel which seemed to be very attractive, and this time encountered an approachable Grey Wagtail as well as more extremely tame Bearded Tits. The island opposite to the ponton seemed quite attractive and very quickly we lured in a majestic Black Woodpecker into view - not quite close enough to allow prolonged, unobscured views, but most folks managed to glimpse the bird while some enjoyed a nice perched view. A distant blob in a tree turned out to be a couple of adult White-tailed Eagles, one of which obliged by taking flight before landing again out of sight. White-tailed Eagles will never win the prize for most attractive of birds but they certainly are most impressive!

Much of the remainder of the day was spent on the return to port at Murighiol, which we reached at dusk. The journey was punctuated with views of Grey-headed Woodpeckers, Ospreys, Honey Buzzards, and numerous Whiskered Terns feeding alongside the ponton. We had our farewell dinner and drinks on the ponton and made ready for an early morning departure.

Sun 11th September

We spent much our last day in Romania travelling. After saying our farewells to the Ponton crew, we disembarked at 07.30 and by 08.00 had boarded our bus for the 5+ hour return drive to Bucharest. Along the way we paused for 30 minutes birding by some roadside fishponds which held the expected Snipe, Wood and Curlew Sandpipers and a few Ruff. A few Glossy Ibis and Black Storks were seen in some water meadows from the moving bus – unfortunately it wasn't possible to stop. After this, we drove non-stop to the airport and arrived with ample time to spare; with this being the 10th anniversary of "9/11", we didn't want to take any chances with delays due to enhanced security checks. Needless to say we sailed through without incident or delay, and we re soon on our way home.

Peter Kennerley

Daily itinerary

- 3/9. Arrived Bucharest, crossed Danube at Calarasi and entered Bulgaria at Silistra. Overnight Silistra.
- 4/9. Pre-breakfast walk in park by hotel. Return to Romania, day spent birding en-route to Constanta and north to Mamaia. Late PM visit to refinery pools at Navodari.
- 5/9. Pre-breakfast walk at lake by hotel in Mamaia. Morning south to Lake Techirghiol, then north to Vadu and finishing at the refinery pools at Navodari.
- 6/9. Pre-breakfast walk by hotel at Mamaia. Morning driving towards fields and grasslands near village of Targusor, then onto gorge at Cheia Dobrogei. Lunch in small woodland at Gura Dobrogei then onto coast at Grinbul Lubilor (Wolf peninsula) until late PM.
- 7/9. Pre-breakfast walk by hotel at Mamaia. North to Histria, then to lake near Murighiol for lunch. PM join ponton and sail along S. Gheorghe Channel. Eventually moored up near village of Stantu Gheorghe.
- 8/9. Morning to Sacaline Island. Lunch on boat then PM to lagoon near village until dusk.
- 9/9. Morning around village looking for migrants followed by small boat ride along narrower waterways. PM to Sacaline Island. Late afternoon return along S. Gheorghe Channel and moored up at Erenciuc just before dusk.
- 10/9. Morning exploring channel to Erenciuc lake. Afternoon return to Murighiol and overnight here on ponton.
- 11/9. Depart ponton and drive to Bucharest with occasional roadside stops.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED *(A total of 174 species was recorded by the group)*

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

One on 4th, five in field by lake at Murighiol on 7th, and one heard near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

200+ in the lagoon at Sacaline Island on 8th and 9th.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Apart from eight on a roadside pool en-route to Constanta on 4th, all other sightings came from the delta region with 300+ on 7th, 150+ on 8th and 100+ on 9th, and just one on 10th. Most numerous in the lagoon at Sacaline Island.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

40 at Lake Techirghiol on 5th, ten at Grinbul Lubilor on the 6th, and thereafter numerous in the delta with up to 50+ recorded daily from 6th to 9th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A flock of ten flew past at Lake Techirghiol on 5th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Common in the delta with 150+ recorded in the lagoon at Sacaline Island on 8th and 9th. Elsewhere four at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common throughout the week and recorded daily.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Recorded in good numbers on most days, with 300+ in the S. Gheorghe Channel on 7th and 250+ in the lagoon at Sacaline Island on 8th and 9th. Smaller numbers elsewhere.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Four or five at the lake near Murighiol on 7th.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Noted on three dates, with two on 4th and 5th and four on pools near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Common throughout the week and recorded daily. Particularly common in the delta.

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

A female on the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th, and 300+ about 25 at Calarasi on the 5th and fairly common in and around the Danube Delta.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Nine at Vadu on 5th, 12+ at Histria on 7th and at least one at Sacaline Island on 8th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Three at the lake at Murighiol on 7th, five in the lagoon at Sacaline Island on 8th, and two there on 9th.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

An immature male at the lake at Murighiol on 7th.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Eight on the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, and one at the lake at Murighiol on 7th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Ones and twos noted at numerous locations on four dates throughout the week. Most numerous in the delta.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

At least 300 at Lake Techirghiol on 5th, 200+ on the lake near Murighiol on 7th and 200+ in the lagoon at Sacaline Island on 8th. Smaller number noted elsewhere.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

A juvenile in flight over the gorge at Cheia Dobrogea on 6th, three in flight over S. Gheorghe Channel on 7th and a further three there on 10th, one near S. Gheorghe on 8th, and five near the Danube crossing en-route to Bucharest on 11th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Just two seen, one by the roadside en-route to Constanta on 4th, and one by the S. Gheorghe Channel on 7th.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Five near the Danube crossing en-route to Bucharest on 11th.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One at Lake Techirghiol on 5th, 42 at Sacaline Island on 8th and 30+ there the next day.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

An adult male and a juvenile at S. Gheorghe on 9th, followed by another juvenile in a channel near S. Gheorghe later the same day.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Only recorded from the delta, with singles on 7th and 8th, three on 9th and a roost with 20+ accidentally disturbed on 10th.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Only recorded from the delta where it was common, with three on 7th, 12+ on 8th, 60+ on 9th and 20+ on 10th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Common, widespread and recorded daily throughout the week, daily maxima being 40+ on 8th and 9th.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Recorded daily but generally in smaller numbers than Grey Heron. Most numerous in the delta with 20+ on 8th and 9th. However, at dusk on 9th, flocks of 150+ and 50+, flying in straggling Vee formations, flew high south over the delta, making a most impressive sight.

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*

Four by the Danube near Calarasi on 3rd followed by six on the Romanian side of the Danube on 4th. Thereafter common in the delta and recorded daily from 7th to 11th, with highs of 20+ on 8th and 40+ on 9th.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Common on wetland areas especially so on the Danube Delta.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Apart from a single bird at Lake Techirghiol on 5th, and a distant feeding flock of 150+ at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, all other sightings came from the Danube Delta, with spectacular views at Sacaline Bay, where a flock of about 300 were present, and with lesser numbers recorded elsewhere, typically distant flocks in flight.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

Five birds in flight at Vadu on 5th, followed by six distant birds in flight at the lake near Murighiol on 7th. In the delta, 13 at Sacaline Bay on 8th, and six there the following day.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

At least 60 on the sandbanks by the Danube near Calarasi on 4th. Thereafter only seen in the delta with up to 40 daily from 7th to 10th.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common throughout the tour and seen daily.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Up to 20 recorded daily from 3rd to 7th but absent from the delta apart from a single bird on 9th near S. Gheorghe.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Three en-route to Constanta on 4th, ten hunting over roadside fields near Vadu on 5th, six near Murighiol on 7th, and a male flew south over the Danube near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Ones and twos recorded daily from 4th to 7th and widespread locations. Thereafter, particularly numerous in the delta, perching in trees or hunting alongside the waterways, with 40+ recorded on 8th and 9th, but just five on 10th.

Saker *Falco cherrug*

The 6th proved to be an excellent day for this exciting falcon. The first was a bird in flight over the gorge at Cheia Dobrogea. This was followed by three or four hunting sousliks over the steppe grasslands to the east of the gorge, where they showed well in the early afternoon.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

A flock of 14 in flight on 4th en-route to Constanta, four over the Danube on 9th and three on 10th.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

A pair at Murighiol on the 7th, and a perched pair plus a distant single in the Danube Delta on 10th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Singles in the delta on 7th and 8th, and three on 9th and 10th.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Very common, recorded in good numbers everyday of the tour.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Single juveniles noted on 4th and 7th, a total of birds seven seen on 6th including an adult male, and another male on 10th.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

Four seen on 6th near Cheia Dobrogea, and a further 4–5 in the delta on 8th. Most were juveniles.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

A juvenile female in flight en-route to Constanta on 4th was presumably a migrant.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Recorded on most days of the tour but less common in the delta region. All birds were of the race *vulpinus*, referred to as 'Steppe Buzzard', although some were quite dark and lacked the rufous tail.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Just five birds recorded, one en-route to Constanta on 4th and four on grasslands/agricultural regions near Cheia Dobrogea on 6th. We had particularly good views of a perched bird on a roadside pylon on 6th.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

Two over Canaraua Fetei on 4th as we ate lunch. Also, singles at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th and one near Murighiol on 7th.

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*

Two near Cheia Dobrogea on 6th, one dark morph, the other a pale morph.

Little Crake *Porzana parva*

A rather distant juvenile on floating vegetation during a roadside stop en-route to Constanta on 4th, and another juvenile, this time seen much closer and for longer on floating vegetation near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Widespread in small numbers at most wetland sites and seen daily.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Generally common at wetland areas and flocks of up to 200 birds seen on the delta.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicephalus*

Two at Lake Techirghiol on 5th, followed by seven at Vadu later the same day.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostraelgus*

At least 12 at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, and 10+ in the delta at Sacaline Island on 8th and 9th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

A flock of 15 at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and two there the next day, at least ten at the lake near Murighiol on 7th, and one near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Recorded in small numbers at many sites, The refinery pools at Navodari (10+), the lake near Murighiol (30+) and the pool at S. Gheorghe (100+) being the best sites.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Generally common in agricultural fields and wetland areas, and recorded daily.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

At least 15 at Sacaline Island on 8th and ten or more there on 9th.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Recorded daily from 4th to 9th at many wader sites including c. 20 at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, and 45+ at S. Gheorghe and Sacaline Island on 8th and 9th.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Surprisingly uncommon. Just two at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, two at Vadu also on 5th, and one at Sacaline Island on 9th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Recorded on six dates at various wetland areas throughout, with ones and twos recorded on most days but with maxima of 20+ on 8th and 13 on 10th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Small numbers at most wader sites including six at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th and 20+ at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th. Highest count was 250+ on pools near S. Gheorghe on 8th. All were of the nominate race and a few young birds still retained juvenile plumage

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Small numbers at several wetland sites from 5th to 8th, the highest count being 15+ at Grinbul Lubilor on 7th. The extremely long bills shown by most birds points to them being of the Asian form *orientalis*.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

A numerous and widespread wader present at many sites on five dates. These included 10+ at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, 10+ at Grinbul Lubilor on the 6th, and 50+ at Sacaline Bay and on pools near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Redshank *Tringa tetanus*

Less widespread than the previous species. Eight at the refinery pools at Navodari on 5th, 150+ at Sacaline Bay on 8th and 30+ there the next day.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Six at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, 10+ at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, but only three in the parts of the delta which we reached.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Widespread and common at all the important wader sites we visited, and recorded on seven dates. Highest numbers were 25+ at Sacaline Bay on 8th, and 20+ on pool near S. Gheorghe, also on 8th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Ones and twos at many wetland, but surprisingly common along the edges of the S. Gheorghe channel with 6+ there on 7th and 20+ seen during a longer period on 10th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Widespread and recorded daily. Most numerous at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th where 10+ seen and throughout the delta where 35+ seen during four days.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*

Two juveniles at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th. Terek Sandpipers are quite scarce in Romania and only rarely are two or more seen together.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles or pairs seen on six dates at many wetland sites throughout.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

One at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th was the only sighting.

Knot *Calidris canutus*

A juvenile at the refinery pools at Navodari on 5th was the only sighting.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

A juvenile at the lake near Murighiol on 7th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Surprisingly scarce, with ones and twos recorded from the refinery pools at Navodari, Vadu and Grinbul Lubilor, and a total of 15+ in the delta from 7th to 9th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Just five sightings, singles at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th, Lake Techirghiol on 5th, and at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, and two at Vadu on 5th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Much more numerous than the last species, with the refinery pools at Navodari being the best site where 40+ were seen on 4th and 5th. At least ten at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th and 15+ in the delta region.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Again the refinery pools at Navodari were the single best site with 60+ there on 4th and 5th. Smaller numbers seen at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, and at Sacaline Bay on 8th.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*

We were extremely fortunate to encounter this charismatic species in good numbers this year. Nine juveniles at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th, followed by six there on 5th and three at Grinbul Lubilor on the 7th. These numbers were eclipsed by the flock in Sacaline Bay on 8th and 9th, which numbered between 45 and 55 birds.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Recorded at wetland sites throughout on six dates, being most numerous at Sacaline Bay with 16+ there on 8th on the Danube Delta.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Three (a moulting adult and two juveniles) at Vadu on 5th was the only sighting.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

Birds had departed from the breeding colonies by this date so the only sighting concerned two juveniles hawking insects over the lake near Murighiol on 7th.

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei*

Three first-winter birds on the refinery pools at Navodari on 5th was the only sighting.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

Very common, recorded daily throughout the tour.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Widespread and numerous, and recorded daily from 4th to 9th. including least ten feeding over the lake by the hotel at Mamaia, but the highest count was of 200+ at Lake Techirghiol on 5th.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyhaetus melanocephalus*

Large flocks frequently encountered roosting in inland arable fields from 4th to 7th, but not seen in the delta.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*

An adult flew over the ponton heading east along the S. Gheorghe channel on 10th. This bird was of the nominate form which breeds in northern Scandinavia and migrates to winter in East Africa.

Great Black-headed Gull *Larus ichthyhaetus*

An adult and first-winter at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, and an adult in the gull roost at Sacaline Bay on 8th. This species has nested in the Danube Delta since 2009 and about 50 pairs nested this year.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Very common, recorded everyday of the tour.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Very common, recorded everyday of the tour.

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*

20–30 at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, and 10+ at Vadu on 5th were the only sightings.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilocta*

Four at Vadu on 5th, a further four at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, and a juvenile near S. Gheorghe on 9th were the only sightings

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Seen regularly on six dates throughout the week, with at least 80 at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, 30+ at the lake near Murighiol on 7th and 30+ at Sacaline Bay in the delta on 8th and 9th. Elsewhere, numbers typically just ones or twos.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Apart from a flock of 11 birds at Lake Techirghiol on 5th, all other sightings came from the delta where it was seen daily from 7th to 10th. Most numerous in the S. Gheorghe channel, with 200+ noted on 7th and 10th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Apart from six at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and eight there on 5th, only singles were seen at Vadu on 5th and in the delta on 7th, 8th and 10th.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Single juveniles at Lake Techirghiol and the refinery pools at Navodari, both on 5th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvichensis*

At least 12 at the refinery pools at Navodari on 4th and 5th, and 500+ at Sacaline Bay in the delta on 8th and 9th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Very common on wetland areas and along the shores of the Black Sea.

Feral Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*

Recorded each day except on the Danube delta.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Only seen in the delta, with five on 7th, one on 9th and 30+ on 10th, mostly seen in flight over the river from the ponton.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

The highest numbers, at least 15, were seen en-route to Constanta on 4th. The only other sightings were two at Vadu on 5th and four in the delta near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Very common throughout the tour.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Four along the channel leading to Sacaline Bay on 8th, and one there on 9th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Single birds heard calling from the ponton on the nights of 8th/9th at Erenciuc and 10th/11th while moored near Murighiol.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One at a regular site in a small cliff en-route to Constanta on 4th, and another seen from the bus near Grinbul Lubilor on 6th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Just one or two in flight over Constanta (seen from the bus) as we reached the town and that was it. The following day they had departed and there were no further sightings.

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

As we were leaving Silistra on 4th, just after re-entering Romania, Zoli spotted a swift in flight from the bus. We quickly disembarked and realised that there were at least two and possibly three Pallid Swifts flying overhead, and most of our group managed to see at least one of these birds. They showed well for about 30 seconds, then a single bird performed a close fly-by before being lost to view. We waited for about 10 minutes for them to return (which they didn't), then continued on our journey. In the bright morning sun, it was straightforward to confirm the identification as Pallid and eliminate Common Swift, although there were no Common Swifts present for comparison. Their overall appearance was

pale greyish-brown, distinctly paler than Common Swift, and they showed a larger white patch on the chin and throat than a Common Swift would. On the upper surface of the wings, the secondaries occasionally flashed silvery – a feature typically associated with Pallid. In structure, they did appear to be slightly more bulky and broader winged with a blunter appearance to the wing-tip. I regularly encounter Pallid Swifts while leading tours for Limosa, most recently in Morocco in April and Turkey in May 2011. This may be only the second record of Pallid Swift for Romania.

Roller *Coracias garrulous*

Recorded in small numbers each day with a maximum daily count of 12+ on 7th. Most were young birds.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One at Lake Techirghiol on 5th. Thereafter, only seen in the delta with daily sightings of up to seven birds.

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Recorded in good numbers everyday of the tour, the vast majority being juveniles. Most numerous in the delta were 200+ noted daily, mostly moving south.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Just four birds seen during the week but only the two birds in the road at Lake Techirghiol on 5th were seen well by everyone.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Singles heard en-route to Constanta on 4th and from the ponton in the early morning on 8th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

A male seen well from the boat along the channel leading to Erenciuc Lake on 10th. What was presumably a different bird was heard earlier the same day from the ponton moored nearby, and a third bird was heard from the ponton as were travelled west along the S. Gheorghe channel on 10th.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

One showed well in Silistra Park by the hotel on a pre-breakfast walk on 4th.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*

Three single birds en-route to Constanta on 4th and one in trees in the Gura Dobrogei valley where we stopped for lunch on 6th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Two in Silistra Park on a pre-breakfast walk on the 4th and one later the same day en-route to Constanta. Then two in the delta on 9th and two on 10th.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

One seen by some of the group as it flew onto a tree and perched on the island adjacent to where the ponton was moored at Erenciuc on 10th.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

On the Danube Delta a male on a concrete power pole near S. Gheorghe on 8th, two in trees by the channel at Erenciuc on 10th, and a further two later the same day from the ponton as we travelled west.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Widespread with up to 60 birds recorded daily.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Just four sightings. Singles by the roadside en-route to Constanta on 4th, at Lake Techirghiol and Vadu on 5th, and by the roadside as we passed through agricultural fields en-route to Cheia Dobrogei gorge on 6th.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

One or two young birds seen daily except 8th when 12+ birds were seen, mostly along the channel leading to Sacaline Bay.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Two in Silistra Park on a pre-breakfast walk on the 4th, the two in roadside trees as we passed through agricultural fields en-route to Cheia Dobrogei gorge on 6th, followed by a further two where we ate lunch.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common, recorded everyday of the week in good numbers.

Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Recorded in good numbers each day, even in the heart of the southern part of the Danube Delta.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Very common throughout the week except on 8th and 9th when we were in the southern part of the delta.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Widespread and common, and recorded regularly throughout the week.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Singles heard in woodland in the delta on 8th, 9th and 10th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Recorded in ones and twos daily.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Apart from a single bird heard on 4th, all other sightings came from the delta, with up to 15 daily from 7th to 11th.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

Two young birds in willows by the village at S. Gheorghe on 9th.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Recorded in good numbers on each day. Numbers over the lake at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th ran into the thousands.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Tens to low hundreds seen daily. Most presumably migrants moving south.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

At least 300 at the breeding colony in the derelict buildings at Canaraua Fetei where we ate lunch on 4th. Thereafter only recorded on two dates, with 20+ on 6th and c. 10 in the delta on 9th.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

At least 12 at the small breeding colony in the derelict buildings at Canaraua Fetei where we ate lunch on 4th. This is a scarce and localized breeding bird in Romania.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

At least ten birds in a flock in trees near Erenciuc Lake on 10th. Some birds showed entirely white heads and others resembled western European breeders.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Two as we passed through agricultural fields en-route to Cheia Dobrogei gorge on 6th, three at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, and 6+ by fish ponds near the Danube as we returned to Bucharest on 11th.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Three at Histria on 7th was the only sighting.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

A freshly dead juvenile on the path by the hotel at Mamaia on 5th had presumably hit a window as it was relocating to suitable habitat at first light.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

The singles in the delta on 8th to 10th proved to be typically elusive.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One feeding in reeds in a small channel near S. Gheorghe on 9th showed well to the occupants of one of the boats.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One by the lake near the hotel at Mamaia on 7th and three near the village at S. Gheorghe on 9th.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Two young birds showed well at Histria on 7th.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

One or two noted on six dates, but with four near the village at S. Gheorghe on 9th and 6+ in the channel at Erenciuc on 10th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One in bushes by the lake near the hotel at Mamaia on 5th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Widespread in small numbers and noted on six dates with maxima of seven on 5th.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Three at Erenciuc on 10th including at least one singing bird.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

At least ten in the small woodland in the Gura Dobrogei valley where we ate lunch on 6th. A further ten or more at S. Gheorghe on 9th.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

At least 15 in the small woodland in the Gura Dobrogei valley where we ate lunch on 6th, and two at S. Gheorghe on 9th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

One on our pre-breakfast walk in Silistra Park on 4th. Thereafter one or two seen daily although there were at least eight around the village at S. Gheorghe on 9th.

Bearded Tit *Parnurus biarmicus*

Two by the ponton where we moored near S. Gheorghe on 8th, and at least eight in the channel at Erenciuc on 10th which showed exceptionally well. These birds are much paler, less richly toned than British birds.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

One seen and another one or two heard at Erenciuc on 10th. The flank colour of these birds is conspicuously whiter than on those we see in Britain.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Very common, recorded in good numbers everyday of the tour.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Single birds seen en-route to Constanta on 4th and in the delta on 10th.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

One seen en-route to Constanta on 4th and one in the small woodland in the Gura Dobrogei valley where we ate lunch on 6th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

A female in Silistra Park on a pre-breakfast walk on the 4th, and at least six in the Cheia Dobrogei gorge on 6th.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

A female near Vadu on 5th, a male in bushes outside the hotel in Mamaia on 6th, and male and female in the small woodland in the Gura Dobrogei valley where we ate lunch, also on 6th, and two showed well in the afternoon near S. Gheorghe on 8th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Five single birds noted at various locations during the week.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Just one seen, near Gura Dobrogei on 6th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Noted on just three dates from 5th to 7th. One or two near the hotel in Mamaia each morning but most numerous in steppe grassland near Gura Dobrogei on 6th with 10+ noted.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

A pair in the Cheia Dobrogei gorge on 6th. These birds were freshly moulted adults of the eastern race *melanoleuca* and the male was of the dark throated morph.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Widespread in small numbers and recorded daily, with a high of nine birds on 8th in the delta.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Much more numerous than Spotted Flycatcher. Recorded daily, often starting with two or three by the hotel in Mamaia, and ten or more heard or seen most days (they are much easier to hear than they are to see!). The small woodland in the Gura Dobrogei valley where we ate lunch on 6th held at least ten birds, probably many more as they seemed to be everywhere.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common around towns and villages, and recorded everyday of the tour.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

At least ten en-route to Constanta on 4th was the highest day tally. Thereafter, just the occasional ones and twos noted on four dates.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Recorded in good numbers throughout the week, although most were in flight, calling as they went – and giving two quite different flight calls: one similar to that which we are familiar with in western Europe (so presumably given by Blue-headed (*flava*) or Grey-headed Wagtails (*thunbergi*); and the other distinctly more buzzing in character (presumably given by Black-headed (*feldegg* or related intergrades). Of those seen on the ground, the majority were first-winter birds which were difficult to assign specific subspecies, although the greyer birds with a darkish head were presumably *feldegg* or a closely related type. Of the adults, we certainly saw nominate *flava* and also one of the intergrade forms *xanthophrys* which rather resembles one of the eastern races *taivana*.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

A first-winter in the Erenciuc channel in the Danube Delta on 10th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Quite common and recorded daily throughout the week.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

A moulting juvenile at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th was the only record.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Heard calling in flight on five dates, particularly just before/after dawn near the hotel at Mamaia. Occasionally seen as a dot going south, but no birds seen on the ground.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Two en-route to Constanta on 4th was the only sighting.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Two in Silistra Park during our pre-breakfast walk on 4th and four en-route to Constanta later the same day were the only sightings.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Noted on four dates with 40+ on 5th being the best day.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Two at Cheia gorge on 6th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Three at Canaraua Fetei where we ate lunch on 4th.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

One at Grinbul Lubilor on 6th, two at Histria on 7th, and singles in the delta on 8th and 9th.

MAMMALS

European Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*
Otter *Lutra lutra*
European Sousek *Spermophilus citellus*
Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*
Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus*

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*
Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*
Common Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*
Balkan Wall Lizard *Podarcis taurica*
Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*
Edible Frog *Rana esculenta*

DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES

Large Redeye (Red-eyed Damselfly) *Erythromma najas*
Small Bluetail (Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly) *Ischnura pumilio*
Blue Emperor (Emperor Dragonfly) *Anax imperator*
Yellow-winged Darter *Sympetrum flaveolum*
Moustached Darter (Vagrant Darter) *Sympetrum vulgatum*
Southern Darter *Sympetrum meridionale*

BUTTERFLIES

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirus*
Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Small White *Artogeia rapae*
Green-veined White *Artogeia napa*
Eastern Bath White *Pontia edusa*
Pale Clouded Yellow *Colias hyale*
Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*
Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*
Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
Escher's Blue *Agrodiaetus escheri*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Comma *Polygonia c-album*
Map Butterfly *Araschnia levana*
Cardinal *Argynnis pandora*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Small Heath *Coenonymph apamphilus*
Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alceae*