

România in Spring

Saturday 5th - Sunday 13th May 2007

Trip report

Leaders:

Tudor Blaj

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Driver:

Stelic_

TRIP DIARY

Saturday 5th May

We leave a busy Heathrow; meet up at Bucharest airport with Tudor and our group is complete so we load up and set off for the hotel. Red-backed Shrike sit by the roadside and White Stork are noted both flying and guarding nests. We also see the first of many Tree Sparrows that seem to be widespread. Part way along the route we have a stop to check a wetland area. An immature Black-crowned Night Heron flies into view and then we start to count the waders. At least 200 Ruff, including one male in display, 60 Wood Sandpiper and 15 Spotted Redshank. Three male Garganey look very colourful in their spring plumage and 15 Red-footed Falcons drift gently over the opposite bank catching and eating insects on the wing and where Sauslik look nervous. We also see other raptors including Marsh Harrier and Kestrel plus a very pale looking Long-legged Buzzard, which kept us guessing for a while. We drive on towards C_l_r_a_i and unload into our hotel before enjoying a meal and then a well earned sleep.

Sunday 6th May

Our pre-breakfast walk started off very well with good views of Grey-headed & Green Woodpecker plus Thrush Nightingales. Then we see a couple of Kingfishers along with a nice mix of warblers. Further along we meet a group of barking dogs, a theme that was to run through the week especially in bear country. Some of us briefly see a hunting male Levant Sparrowhawk dashing through the trees before we stop to look at the wildlife on the river: Whiskered Terns, Common Sandpiper and White Wagtail. Just as we move to head back to the hotel a _ Syrian Woodpecker settles awkwardly on a wire nearby.

After breakfast we travel a short distance and look at the C_l_r_a_i Fish Ponds and find Black Tern, Little Bittern, Ruff, Squacco Heron, Great Reed Warbler, Pochard, Little & Great-crested Grebe plus Shoveler, Cormorant and Pygmy Cormorant. We then drive a short distance to view a wetland area and see Garganey, Shelduck and a good mix of waders. Our next drive is through more open country and here we see our first Lesser Grey Shrike before

stopping at the Ostrov Ferry. We enjoy Spanish Sparrows building their nests before getting on the ferry. From the boat we see 20 Dalmatian Pelican, 3 Spoonbill and a Hobby before landing close to the Bulgarian border. A short drive, during which we see Bee-eater, and we stop at Bugeac Lake to find a few more firsts for the trip: Ruddy Shelduck, Roller, Black Stork and a good mix of duck. As we pass through Canaraua Fetei we see our only Red-rumped Swallows of the trip before we stop for lunch at a quarry. It wasn't easy trying to eat and also look at the wildlife with Short-toed Eagle, Golden Oriole and 'Steppe Buzzard' nearby. Our walk in the woods provides Black-headed Bunting, Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and brief Hawfinch. The next stop at Adamclisi proves exciting as we stop to check 2 raptors; a larger bird is flying below them and out of sight for most people, this bird soars into view, an immature Golden Eagle, a rare species in this country. Honey Buzzard, Tawny Pipit and Booted Eagle are also seen as we drive towards our next base at Mamaia-Sat and we find our rooms and then enjoy a good meal.

Monday 7th May

Our pre-breakfast drive takes us to the local Oil Refinery pools and we see Reed & Great Reed Warbler plus Savi's Warbler. A varied mix of duck includes a male Red-crested Pochard whilst other species present are Little Tern, Purple Heron, Bearded Tit and Marsh Harrier. After breakfast we drive towards Histria seeing Red-footed Falcon, Sand Martins & Lesser Grey Shrike before stopping to view the marshes. We manage to find a single Temminck's Stint hiding amongst 100+ Little Stint with a great selection of other wader species present including Squacco Heron, Great White Egret, Black headed and Dombrowki's Wagtail plus Collared Pratincole. We then drive to a little café and find a male Redstart in the car park and as we exit the bus briefly see a Stone Curlew. As lunch is being prepared we walk and have close views of a pair of Stone Curlew before hunger drives us back to the café where we see a Long-eared Owl roosting in a tree just outside the window! Our drive continues and we soon arrive at Gura Dobrogea to find a pair of Isabelline Wheatear and Calandra Larks in the short grass. Another drive, this time very rural, and someone spots a Little Owl sitting near the track. Further along and we stop to walk along the Cheia Dobrogea Gorge to find Pied, Northern and Black-eared Wheatears. At least 60 Bee-eaters fly over us followed by a mix of Long-legged, Common and Honey Buzzards plus a few Red-footed Falcon and Linnet. Back at base we explore the hotel area and locate a _ Red-breasted Flycatcher and Black Redstart before moving to the beach. Several Mediterranean Gulls are found among the normal mix of gull species plus more of the smaller wader species seen earlier. On our way back to the hotel we find Spotted Flycatcher, Blackcap and another roosting Long-eared Owl. During the evening Tudor gives us a lively talk on the history of his country.

Tuesday 8th May

During our pre-breakfast walk we manage to see _ & _ Black Redstarts, Pied Flycatcher, 2 Icterine Warbler in the trees and at least 100 Great-crested Grebe on the sea. After breakfast we travel towards Vadu and see numerous Calandra Larks on route before stopping to view a marshland area. Our first Avocets of the trip are below us plus good numbers of the normal wader

suspects! Next we drive further into the marsh and briefly see another Stone Curlew before stopping to look at numerous Collared Pratincoles in flight and on the ground, our first really good look at these birds. Several groups of friendly Bearded Tits perch nearby and then our attention is diverted to a 'Reed Warbler type' that is sitting on top of a reed near to us, we then enjoy stunning views of a singing Paddyfield Warbler, in the telescope, at short range for what seemed an eternity. We reluctantly move along to study a new area of marsh and see Adult and sub-adult Little Gulls perched on an island. A single small tree nearby held a good number of smaller birds including Red-backed Shrike, Barred Warbler, Common and Lesser Whitethroat. Another surprise awaited us at the next pool as a White-tailed Plover walks into view and another is seen briefly. A Great Bittern is heard calling and that signals lunch is near, so we move to the Babadag Forest to find 3_ Ortolan Bunting, Yellowhammer and 2_ Levant Sparrowhawk fighting before driving to Enisala for lunch. As we set up for lunch part of the group go to check out the nearby woodland whilst the rest check out the mixed habitat below a viewpoint. At the viewpoint a small group of distant Red-footed Falcons are slowly drifting around, feeding on insects. The peace is broken by a Mig aircraft that thunders in and then drops bombs! The resulting explosions send pressure waves that we all feel as the target range is not that far away! Afterwards our shock turns to joy when it becomes obvious that the Air Force has flushed a great number of resting birds and the Red-footed Falcon numbers grow to at least 250, absolutely amazing!!! A large group of Rooks then appear and go to investigate 60 White Pelicans soaring high up above us. As we have our lunch the airspace around and above is full of birds including: Bee-eater, Hirundines and Swifts. We leave and drive to Tulcea where we have a postcard and let's buy currency stop before boarding the Pontoon. As the tug slowly pulls us towards the Danube Delta we see a superb mix and number of birds: Black-crowned Night-heron, Black Stork, Squacco Heron, Glossy Ibis, Red-footed Falcon, Hobby, White-winged Black Tern, Black Tern, Roller and Hirundines before reaching our mooring for the night. We briefly see and hear Grey-headed Woodpecker before enjoying a good meal on our temporary floating home and then falling to sleep with the sound of frogs calling just outside.

Wednesday 9th May

During the pre-breakfast watch we see 2 Caspian Terns fly past, 2 Black Woodpecker fly across the river, _ Montagu's Harrier fly overhead and numerous Golden Orioles fly around and near the pontoon. After breakfast we start to explore the delta using small motor-boats and just after we set off find a Roller chasing a Great Bittern. Meanwhile the pontoon is moved to a new site to rendezvous with us later. Kingfisher, Redstart, Lesser Whitethroat & Spotted Flycatcher are seen before we drift into a large lake and see lots of White Pelicans on the other side, so we gently move towards them. We enjoy great views of these and also see Little & Great White Egret plus Purple Heron, Spoonbill & Dalmatian Pelican. We meet up with the Pontoon and have lunch. After this we set off again in the motor-boats and immediately find a family group of Red-necked Grebe and further along Great-crested Grebes are seen in large numbers. Ferruginous Duck, Pygmy Cormorant & several Squacco Heron plus elusive Penduline Tit are noted. A few good

raptors are spotted: Honey Buzzard, Red-footed Falcon, Hobby, Common & Long-legged Buzzard and two adult White-tailed Sea Eagle before joining the pontoon again. As we drift magnificently along the waterway the constant variety of wildlife keeps us busy with two immature White-tailed Sea Eagle, Red-necked Grebe, Osprey eating fish, at least 7 Kingfisher and at least 30 Honey Buzzard, some very close, before we return to the pontoon to enjoy another feast before retiring to sleep.

Thursday 10th May

We awake to hear the sound of the tug pulling us back towards Tulcea and although we see & hear a mix of birds, the banter that we hear between the tug and the men near the landing area is more than colourful and gives us great entertainment. Luckily the majority of us do not understand the language! We disembark and load up into the bus once more and drive to have a quick look at Somova Lake and here we see some good waders and at least 36 Black-necked Grebe and a Long-legged Buzzard before moving to Celic Dere Monastery and woodland. As we start to explore a Wryneck is heard singing, then a feast of raptors start: _ Montagu's Harrier, 4 Lesser-spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Booted Eagle, 2 Honey Buzzard, Common Buzzard, _ Goshawk and _ Levant Sparrowhawk with prey. Meanwhile near the woods we find: Red-backed Shrike, Wood and Icterine Warbler. Our next stop is at the Babadag Forest and we find Song Thrush, Blackbird, Robin, Pied Flycatcher, Nuthatch, Great Spotted and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers, the latter with nest/young, several Wood Warbler and a Treecreeper. We then travel to Fundata Lake but see very little apart from a mix of duck and a Spotted Redshank. Further along we stop to look at Balta Rodeanu Lake and here we find Ferruginous Duck, Grey Heron with nesting material, Kestrel and 30 Black-necked Grebe. We then travel to the Furnica Hotel in Sinaia and unload before having a good meal. After the meal some of the group go out (in the bus) and see two Brown Bears near the outskirts of the village and also find suicidal human beings trying to feed the bears sandwiches.

Friday 11th May

Our pre-breakfast walk around the village provided us with Fieldfare with nest, Black Redstart, Coal Tit, Serin, Chiffchaff, Song Thrush and a heard but not seen Red-breasted Flycatcher. After breakfast we set off for the Zarnesti Gorge and start to explore the cliffs. We find a Grey Wagtail to start with but little else, so we walk further along before finding a Wren and further still before enjoying quality views of Alpine Swifts at a nesting site above us. Just beyond we find another cliff and here we see the little gem, Wallcreeper! The views we have are prolonged and in good light conditions, so we enjoy. We decide to have our lunch at the unusually named town of 1 Mai Village and here we see Red-backed Shrike, Yellowhammer, Raven and Sedge Warbler. After lunch we manage to find 3 Honey Buzzard, Tree Pipit, Mistle Thrush, Chiffchaff, an adult pair of Lesser-spotted Eagle plus an immature bird. We then move to Paraul Rece and have great views of a pair of Firecrest and a _ Red-breasted Flycatcher before heading back and getting involved in a little retail therapy on route prior to our meal.

Saturday 12th May

A very interesting day ahead as we set off to Bucegi and take the cable car to Babele Peak which is approximately 2,220mts high and step into a very different habitat. We do manage to see a few Chamois on the way up but the birdlife is quite interesting, only the specialist can survive up here. The first birds we hear and see are Black Redstart, White Wagtail and Water Pipit. Then we find Horned Lark, Northern Wheatear, Raven, Kestrel, Linnet and Swift. We travel back down the cable car and then return to the hotel in Sinaia to enjoy lunch. The next destination is another unusually named town, Cota 1400 and we see Tree Pipit, Red-backed Shrike, Robin, Chiffchaff, Mistle Thrush and a brief Ring Ouzel before moving to another area of woodland. We find very little of interest apart from a distant singing Collared Flycatcher so we move to the Queens Clearing to have refreshments before walking into a beautiful meadow full of wildflowers including Gentians.

Sunday 13th May

Our last pre-breakfast walk near the Hotel and Palace area proves to be the best of them all as we enjoy a great mix of wildlife including: Black Redstart, Serin, Buzzard, Great-spotted Woodpecker, Bee-eater, Swift, Whinchat, Fieldfare, Dipper family, Nuthatch, Spotted Flycatcher, Willow Tit nesting, Jay, 6+ Hawfinch, 2 Yellow-legged Gull and a Red Squirrel. After our breakfast we load our entire luggage into the bus and we drive to the outskirts of Sinaia to stop and look for woodpeckers. As we emerge from the bus a stunning male Collared Flycatcher perches nearby but it doesn't stay long and disappears. Suddenly a woodpecker flies in, a White-backed Woodpecker at that, we all get prolonged views of this bird and watch its behaviour. It delicately picks off small insects from the tree leaves and only returns to the nest to feed the young when it has collected a beak full. The bird moves away and we find other birds before we leave: _ Sparrowhawk and a pair of Marsh Tit. We move off and stop part way through our journey to look at Pucheni Mosneni Lake and see a good mix of the usual suspects for this type of habitat but the Little Bittern was a nice surprise, even though it was brief. We continue along the road to the airport and the only highlight is a _ Montagu's Harrier hunting over the fields. We arrive in good time to catch our flights and depart homeward.

Species Lists:

BIRDS

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*.

Seen on 4 days with a max of 4 on the 7th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*.

Four adult & 1 juvenile seen in the Delta on the 9th.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*.

100's seen on both salt & fresh water areas.

Black-necked (Eared) Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*.

Seen on 3 days, max of 66 from two lakes on the 10th.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*.

Seen in small numbers on 6 days.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*.

Fifty on the 6th, smaller numbers on 3 other days.

(Great) White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*.

1,000's on the 9th with smaller numbers on 2 other days.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*.

Twenty on the 6th and 4 on the 8th & 9th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*.

Common, widespread and seen most days.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*.

Seen on 4 days with a max of 7 on the 8th.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*.

Seen in good numbers on the 9th with smaller numbers on 4 other days.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*.

Seen regularly from the 5th to the 10th.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*.

Seen on 4 days with a max of 20 on the 8th.

Black-crowned Night-heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*.

Seen on 3 days with a max of 40 on the 8th.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*.

Six on the 6th with singles on the 7th and 13th.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*.

One heard on the 8th & one seen on the 9th being chased by a Roller.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*.

Singles on 3 days but a group of 5 flying over on the 8th.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*.

Common, widespread and seen most days including nests.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*.

Small numbers on 2 days but an outstanding 160 seen on the 8th.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*.

Three seen on three days, perhaps the same birds?

Mute Swan *Cygnus olo*.

Small numbers on 3 days but 100's seen on the 8th and 9th.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*.

Nineteen on the 6th and smaller numbers on 3 other dates.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*.

Eight on the 6th and 2 on the 10th.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Seen on 5 dates with a max of 30 on the 9th.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*.

Seen on 5 dates with a max of 20 on the 8th.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Common, widespread and seen most days.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*.

Five on the 6th & 8th with small numbers on 2 other dates.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*.

Small numbers on three dates.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*.

Single male seen on the 7th.

Common Pochard *Aythya farina*.

Seen on 5 dates with a max of 20 on the 6th.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Good views on 5 dates with a max of 30 on the 6th.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

A pair flying off the oil refinery pool on the 7th.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

An impressive 30+ in the Delta on the 9th with smaller numbers on 4 days.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

A single bird flying over on the 6th being the only record of this species.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Two adults and two immatures in the Delta on the 9th.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One perched on a tree eating a fish in the Delta on the 9th.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

Close views of an immature near Adamclisi on the 6th.

Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

Close views of a bird near the Celic Dere Monastery area on the 10th.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

A single during our lunch stop at the quarry near Canaraua Fetei on the 6th.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Singles on three dates with a max of 3 seen on the 10th.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Widespread and seen most days but only in small numbers.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

Males seen on the 6th, two on the 8th and one with prey on the 10th.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Females recorded on the 5th and the 13th.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Single male soaring over woodland at Celic Dere Monastery area on the 10th.

Common (Eurasian) Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Seen every day, including a few of the 'Steppe Buzzard' form.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Recorded in small numbers on 5 dates with a pale form noted on the 5th.

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

4 at Celic Dere Monastery on the 10th and Pair + Imm at 1 Mai village on 11th.

Booted Eagle *Hieraeetus pennatus*

Singles seen on the 6th, 8th and 10th all pale phase birds.

Common (Eurasian) Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Common, widespread and seen most days in small numbers.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Double figure numbers on 4 dates and flocks of 100+ & 250+ on the 8th.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Small numbers on 6th & 9th but 50+ seen on the 8th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Single bird seen overhead as we had lunch on the 8th at Enisala.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common, widespread and seen or heard most days in small numbers.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

A single bird heard only on the 8th.

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

A single bird heard only on the 11th.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common, widespread and seen most days in small numbers.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

Common, widespread and seen most days in small numbers.

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Two were seen at a wetland area near the C_1_ra_i Fish Ponds on the 6th.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Small numbers on 4 dates and at least 10 recorded on the 6th.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Seen on 2 dates: 40 on the 8th and 10 on the 10th.

European Stone-curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*

A pair seen well on the 7th and a single briefly on the 8th.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

At least 6 at Histria on the 7th and 50+ at Vadu on the 8th.

White-tailed Plover *Vanellus leucurus*

Up to two of these stunning birds were enjoyed at Vadu on the 8th.

(Northern) Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Common, widespread and recorded on 6 days in small numbers.

(Greater) Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Four on the 7th being the only record for this species.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Seen on three dates with a max count of 10 on the 7th.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Observed on two dates: 4 on the 7th and 6 on the 8th.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Just two birds found on the 7th at Histria.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

At least 15 on the 5th with small numbers on three other dates.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Recorded on one date, the 15th when 6 were found.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Singles on three dates, 7th, 8th and 9th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Single birds on the 6th and 7th were the only sightings.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Impressive 60+ on the 5th, with smaller numbers on four other dates.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One's or two's on four dates.

(Ruddy) Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Four seen at a wetland area near the C_1_ra_i Fish Ponds on the 6th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

One hundred plus on the 7th with single figure counts on the 6th & 8th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

A single found on the 7th with the Little Stint at Histria.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Singles found on the 5th and 8th.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

200+ on the 5th with much smaller numbers on two other dates.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

200+ on the 5th, 70 on the 6th, 50 on the 7th and small numbers on 3 days.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Common, widespread and seen on 7 days in small numbers.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Widespread and recorded on four days in small numbers.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Recorded on two dates, 7th and 8th, at the coast and inland.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Common, widespread and seen on 6 days in small numbers.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Three birds including an adult located on the 8th at Vadu.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Common, widespread and seen during 7 days.

White-winged (Black) Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera*

Forty on the 8th with small numbers seen on two other dates.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Twenty on the 8th and a few others located on 4 dates.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*

Two flying past the Pontoon early on the morning of the 9th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Common, widespread and seen during 6 days.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

Single on the 7th and 6 noted on the 8th.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia*

Common, widespread and seen every day in small numbers.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Just two birds found on the 6th.

(Common) Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Small numbers recorded on three dates only.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Four are noteworthy on the 6th with small numbers on 2 other dates.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Common (Eurasian) Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Common, widespread and seen almost every day.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Single birds noted on the 7th and 8th.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Single birds found roosting at 2 sites on the 7th.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

At least 20 at a breeding site near Z_rne_ti Gorge on the 11th.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Recorded on 4 dates with a max of 8 on the 9th.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Common, widespread and seen almost every day, a max of 300 on the 8th.

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

100+ on the 8th with smaller numbers on 4 other dates.

(Eurasian) Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Common, widespread and seen on several days, max of 10 on the 8th.

(Eurasian) Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One heard singing but not seen on the 10th at Celic Dere Monastery area.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

Adults at nest with young on the 10th at the Babadag Forest area.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*

Male perched on wire at C_1_ra_i on the 6th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Recorded on 5 dates with a max of five on the 9th.

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*

Great views of one feeding young at a nest on the 13th near Sinaia.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

Two flying past the pontoon early morning on the 9th.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

One seen walking along the path at C_1_ra_i on the 6th.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*

Seen and/or heard on 4 days with a max of 8 on the 9th.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Recorded on 3 days with a max count of 10 on the 7th.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Small numbers seen on four dates.

(Eurasian) Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis*

Max of 20 on the 7th with smaller numbers seen on 3 other days.

Horned Lark (Eastern form) *Eremophila alpestris*

Seven recorded near the Babele Peak on the 12th.

European Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

1,000 plus noted on the 8th with smaller numbers on 3 days.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*

Two seen on the 6th near Canaraua Fetei.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava feldegg*

Seen in small numbers on 5 dates.

Yellow (Dombrowki's) Wagtail *Motacilla flava dombrowskii*

'Romanian' race only seen on the 7th.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*

Common, widespread and seen every day in small numbers.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Only recorded on the 11th and 13th.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

Small numbers seen on the 6th and 7th.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One heard singing on the 11th but three seen on the 12th.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Ten of these colourful little birds were seen on the Babele Peak on the 12th.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Recorded on 4 days with a max of 6 on the 8th.

(White-throated) Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*

Single on the 11th and a family seen on the 13th.

(Winter) Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Heard only on three days and one finally seen on the 11th.

Hedge Accentor (Dunnock) *Prunella modularis*

Singles recorded on the 11th, 12th and 13th.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

A male singing close to the group was only seen briefly by a few on the 12th.

Common (Eurasian) Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common, widespread and seen most days.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Seen on three days with two nests found in Sinaia.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common, widespread and seen on 5 days, always in small numbers.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Two on the 11th & one on the 12th were the only records.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Common and seen on 5 days, always in small numbers.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

Two seen well on the 6th with others heard on two days.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Two seen well on the 6th with others heard on two days.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Small numbers recorded on at least five dates.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Up to 10 on the 9th with smaller numbers seen on 4 other days.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

At least six found on the 7th with smaller numbers on two other dates.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

The only record is of a bird heard calling on the 7th, very strange!

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Max of six seen on three dates with smaller numbers on two other dates.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Superb views of at least 8 birds on the 7th at the Cheia Dobrogea Gorge.

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

Good views of a pair on the 7th at the Cheia Dobrogea Gorge.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

Good views of two birds on the 7th at Gura Dobrogea.

Bearded Tit (Reedling) *Panurus biarmicus*

Brief views on the 7th but prolonged sightings on the 8th.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinoides*

Two birds seen well on both the 7th and 8th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Heard only on the 6th but seen well on the 8th and 11th.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*

Unbeatable views of a singing bird on the 8th at Vadu.

(Eurasian) Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Max of 10 on the 8th with smaller numbers on two other dates.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Common & widespread in reed-bed areas, max of 6 seen on the 7th.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Recorded on three days which included one bird in song.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Recorded on three dates with a max of 10 on the 8th.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common, widespread and seen on 7 days, always in small numbers.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Single on the 6th and at least 10 on the 10th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common, widespread and seen on 7 days, usually in small numbers.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Heard only on two days but finally seen on the 11th.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Recorded on 5 dates with a max of 3 on the 7th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Recorded on 5 dates with a max of 6 on the 9th.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Good views of a single in a small tree at Vadu on the 8th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Superb views of a pair at Paraul Rece on the 11th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Heard only on the 12th but seen on then 13th.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Common, widespread and seen on most days, max of 6 seen on the 8th & 9th.

European Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Recorded on three dates with a max of 3 on the 8th.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

Heard only on the 12th but a male seen on the 13th.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

Recorded on three dates with the best sighting being a close male on the 11th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Seen on 3 days with high numbers found on the 10th.

(Eurasian) Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

At least 15 were heard but only three were seen in the Delta area.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Pair found on the outskirts of Sinaia on the 13th.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Pair at a nest on our last pre breakfast walk at Sinaia on the 13th.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Only recorded in small numbers on three dates.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Common, widespread and seen on most days.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Widespread and seen on four days.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Single found on the 10th and two seen on the 13th.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria*

We enjoyed prolonged views of this little gem at Zarnesti Gorge on the 11th.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

A single bird seen on the 10th being the only record.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Common, widespread and seen on most days in small numbers.

Black-billed (Common) Magpie *Pica pica*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Eurasian (Western) Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Single on the 8th, 3 on the 11th and 6 on the 12th.

(Eurasian) Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Seen and heard most days with a max of 15 on the 9th.

Common (European) Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common, widespread and seen every day.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Recorded on 5 days and only in small numbers.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Males on the 8th & 11th, female on the 10th.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Three males on the 8th were outstanding.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Superb male at our lunch stop on the 6th was well studied.

(Eurasian) Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Recorded on three days with a max of 4 on the 7th.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common, widespread and seen most days.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Small numbers were seen or heard calling on three days only.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common, widespread and seen most days.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common, widespread and seen most days.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Recorded on only two days with 8 on the 7th & 6 on the 12th.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

A pair seen at Bucegi on the 12th and four birds at Sinaia on the 13th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Recorded on four days with a max count of six on the 13th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common, widespread and seen most days.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Several birds nest building near the Ostrov Ferry on the 6th.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common, widespread and seen most days.

MAMMALS

Common Mole *Talpa europaea*

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Brown Bear *Ursus arctos*

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*

European Souslik *Spermophilus citellus*

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*

Pine Marten *Martes martes*

Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*

Chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra*

Shrew sp

AMPHIBIANS

Fire Salamander *Salamandra salamandra*

Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina*

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

Edible/Pool Frog *Rana esculenta/lessonae*

REPTILES

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata*

Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis*

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca*

Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*

Scarce swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

Large white *Pieris brassicae*

Small white *Artogeia rapae*

Green-veined white *Artogeia napi*

Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Clouded Yellow *Colias hyale*

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

Wood White *Leptidea sinapis*

Holly blue *Celastrina argiolus*

Common blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Peacock *Inachis io*

Red admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathiona*

Mountain Ringlet *Erebia epiphron*

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilius*

Speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*

Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae*

Small Skipper *Thymelicus flavus*

MOTHS

Speckled yellow *Pseudopanthera macularia*

DRAGONFLIES

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*

OTHER INSECTS

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*

Hornet *Vespa crabro*

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*

Violet Ground Beetle *Carabus violaceus*

Wasp *Vespula* sp

Ant Lion sp

Fire Bug sp

Copper Beetle sp

Green Beetle sp

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