

Limosa Holidays

The Travelling Naturalist

BULGARIA: RHODOPE MOUNTAINS & BLACK SEA COAST May 14th ~ 23rd 2008

Tour Report

Leaders:

Liubo Profirov and Brian Small

Our 'Grand Tour' of Bulgaria began and ended in Sofia. Anticlockwise, we visited many bird-rich areas of the country: the western Rhodope mountains, centred around Pamporovo and Trigrad (Wallcreeper, Sombre Tit, Firecrest); the rolling volcanic hills of the eastern Rhodope (three species of vulture, Imperial and Lesser Spotted Eagles, singing Barred Warbler, Rollers, Black and White Storks, Scops Owl); northeast to the coast and the lakes around Burgas (Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Glossy Ibis, a Honey Buzzard passage, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Little Bittern); north to Kavarna and the limestone cliffs and lakes of Durankulak and Shabla Tuzla (Eagle Owl, Pied Wheatear, Paddyfield and Great Reed Warblers, Calandra Larks, Stone-curlew); Rosy Starlings near Silistra and the lake at Srebarna, plus grebes, terns, ducks and more mighty Dalmatian Pelicans.

It was certainly an enjoyable trip, which we subtitled the 'Birds, butterflies and beers of Bulgaria', and was very much enhanced by the local field guide (and alcohol expert) Liubo. His guidance and knowledge of the history of the country very much added to the trip and without which it would not have been half as interesting or half as much fun. We covered a lot of ground (2,268km to be exact) and Liubo managed to get every last drop of birding out of the country. Bulgaria is an eastern European country that is (all too) rapidly developing, to the extent that you sometimes wonder if it simply too much and Liubo's insight into the country he so clearly loves made it much more pleasurable.

I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did and will have many memories. Perhaps the Wallcreepers were a touch too far away, but good nevertheless; the magnificent Imperial Eagle; the pelicans reflected in the calm lake at Burgas; all the Rollers and Bee-eaters - too many to list. I look forward to seeing you all again. BS.

Day 1. Wed 14th May. Following our morning flight out of Heathrow's Terminal 5, we were all pleased to get our luggage at Sofia's brand new airport, meet Liubo and get on our way. Leaving Sofia produced our first good birds, with White Storks nesting on lamp-posts along the central reservation. With Common Buzzards, Hooded Crows and Ravens beside the coach, it was good to stop, stretch our legs and do a little birding in earnest. At Vinogradec, we managed to find our first Red-backed Shrike, Black-headed and Corn Buntings, plus distant song-fighting Barred Warblers, but much closer views of Marsh Warbler singing low in a willow. Another brief stop and a stroll up a gravel track produced Alpine Swift, Crag Martins and Red-rumped Swallows amongst the many hirundines overhead; the river held Dipper and Grey Wagtail; the cliffs held Blue Rock-thrush and Black Redstart; whilst the woodland held Marsh Tit and Ortolan Bunting. Further excitement came in the form of Short-toed Eagle and Peregrine. An Eastern Wood White, Adonis Blues and Brimstones added to the mix. Pushing on we eventually arrived in the fir forests (and rampant development) of the ski-resort of Pamporovo in the western Rhodope Mountains. A fine meal with bean soup as starter went down well and we retired early.

Day 2. Thurs 15th May. A rather chilly pre-breakfast walk above the hotel produced a few woodland species, including Great Spotted Woodpecker, a Goldcrest and Firecrest, plus a lovely male Red-backed Shrike and a pair of Bullfinches. The drive to the dramatic Trigrad Gorge passed through the 'ethnological town' of Siroka Laka and close to Nastan we stopped for a Golden Eagle..... and pulled a male Red-breasted Flycatcher out of the hat. Another brief stop at a nesting colony of Alpine Swifts found c.20 wheeling around and Rob saw a Kingfisher zap upstream. The gorge itself did not disappoint and we had magnificent views up and down the gorge. However, it took a wee while before we were able to find first one then two Wallcreepers (at quite a height above us). A great team effort kept tabs on them so that all had 'scope views, before our necks eventually forced us to stop looking. What a bird! Having checked out the 'Devil's Throat' and a nice male Common Redstart, we set off for lunch.

With a lovely warm trout and salad inside us, we pressed on up to the meadows above Trigrad. Dark clouds threatened and, as it transpired, we were lucky to get an hour's birding before the weather closed in. We managed to see a number of interesting species, including very confiding Sombre Tits and Tree Sparrows, Serins and Mistle Thrushes, but heavy rain forced us back. Pallid Swifts were noted in the centre of Trigrad (and later at the hotel) and, for some, fine views of three Firecrests in the pines above the hotel (one flaring its crest wonderfully) brought the birding day to an end.

Day 3. Fri 16th May. Foregoing the pleasure of a pre-breakfast walk, we made an early breakfast and left at 0800hrs, though not before being detained by a couple of Crossbills and a small patch of Elder-flowered Orchids. We traced down the winding road out of the western Rhodope mountains to the town of Smolyan, where we saw Common Swifts, then along the Arda river to Ardino. Here we found two fine Black Storks, a singing Lesser Whitethroat, Cuckoos and a Rock Bunting, plus several Queen of Spain Fritillaries and Green Hairstreaks (the first good butterflies amongst 28 species seen during the day). On to Kardjali, detouring along the northern bank of the lake to a small village called Kalojanci for lunch and an hour's exciting birding: three species of vulture (Griffon, Egyptian and a single wing-tagged Black), Long-legged Buzzards, Barred Warbler, Syrian Woodpecker and Black-headed Buntings, to name a few.

After lunch we continued on our way to Krumovgrad, but again not before birding for an hour along the Krumovitza river north of Dolna Kula. Too many birds to mention, but the highlights would be the Roller, Bee-eaters, Black Storks on nests (with associated Rock Nuthatch nests – just one bird though), Lesser Grey Shrikes, Eastern Black-eared Wheatear and another Syrian Woodpecker. Phew! At Krumovgrad - and after dinner - we strolled around the town listening for Scops Owls, with initially a few calling, but right at the end we saw two together in the torchlight. A fitting end to a great day's birding.

Day 4. Sat 17th May. This was to be a long day of travel, with as many stops as possible without arriving too late at Pomorie (though some might argue we failed on the last count). An unscheduled very early morning walk at Krumovgrad found four Lesser Grey Shrikes and a pair of Hobbies along the river, plus a Great Egret. Departing at 0730hrs we first made our way to Potchnitza and the vulture feeding station, but this was devoid of any action; all was not lost however as we saw a splendid Honey Buzzard and Egyptian Vulture, Woodlark and two species of shrike – at Studen Kladenetz we saw an Egyptian Vulture on a nest. Near Izvopovo we found first one then two Lesser Spotted Eagles (the first of eight for the day) that performed a sort of sky-dance for us, showing off all of the characteristic features. Other stops found Masked Shrikes and Olive-tree Warbler near Jerusalemovo; Ortolan Buntings and Short-toed Treecreepers at Golyama Krushevo, but for many the bird of the day was a large raptor first spotted by Joan, which turned out to be a magnificent adult Eastern Imperial Eagle. This turned and soared for us, but was gone in ten minutes – timing, as they say, is everything. Approaching Burgas, our first sight of Mandra lake caused more excitement, as we found a male Red-footed Falcon, two Pygmy Cormorants, two Ferruginous Ducks, Night Heron and a singing Great Reed Warbler. We were travel-weary by the end of the day, but we had covered some miles and seen some truly excellent birds.

Day 5. Sun 18th May. Another excellent day, concentrating on the three lakes around Burgas, looking for the special waterbirds of the area. We were not to be disappointed and a good passage of White and Black Storks and raptors (especially Honey Buzzards) added to the picture. An early morning walk produced two Gull-billed, good numbers of Common and Little but many 100s of Sandwich Terns, Kentish Plover and Ruddy Turnstone.

After breakfast we went to the eastern edge of Burgas Lake, where a quick stop produced new birds at a rapid rate, with 400+ Great White and at least 60 Dalmatian Pelicans, Little Bittern, Squacco Heron, Great Reed Warbler and Black Terns. More stops along the lake produced Ferruginous Duck. In an area of hills we were treated to a good passage of White Storks and Honey Buzzards, with a Lesser Spotted Eagle thrown in – another large eagle, possibly Steppe went unidentified, though we did manage to find two White-tailed Eagles later and a good number of butterflies. On and over the water were Purple Herons, Pygmy Cormorants, Black and Whiskered Terns; in the ditches were Nightingales and Eastern Olivaceous Warblers; over the fields were Skylarks and Bee-eaters. Just prior to lunch we found a Penduline-tits nest, with the pair occasionally visiting. A look for waders found Curlew and Common Sandpipers, Little Stint, Dunlin, Spoonbills, but perhaps best of all a Broad-billed Sandpiper. The final stop for the day got us the hoped-for Collared Pratincole and a rather sorry-looking White-fronted Goose.

Day 6. Mon 19th May. The day started with a brief walk from the hotel, with the highlights being three Willow Warblers and a small school of Bottle-nosed Dolphins. Departing the very comfortable hotel, we first stopped at the western side of Pomorie salt pans, where we were met by many noisy Great Reed Warblers, several Common Ringed Plovers and a smart and very interesting rufous-brown, hepatic Cuckoo. On the pans were four Gull-billed Terns, two Little and two Slender-billed Gulls and good flocks of Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. At the nearby brackish lagoons, more waders included Sanderling and Ruff, but we were driven back by the ticks and traffic.

Next stop, Poroy lake and woods, but though the hoped-for Ruddy Shelducks were not seen (leaving the Swedes with big smiles on their faces), we did see many Bee-eaters at the colony and several Isabelline Wheatears. In the nearby woods, we had very good 'scope views of Hawfinch, Ortolan Bunting and the strange Crested Larks that lingered in the leaf-litter. As we were running late, we had a picnic lunch at Banha and pushed on to Goritza; here seemed to be a birders' convention with four or five groups all being in the woods at the same time. We quickly found a pair of Semi-collared Flycatchers inhabiting a nest box and admired them and several other pairs over the next hour and a half, with many Nuthatches and a couple of Short-toed Treecreepers around. The woodpeckers, however, eluded us and so we left a little disgruntled and a lot late. The grand finale was a magnificent Eagle Owl near Kavarna, which we enjoyed in the evening sun as it pulled at its prey on the white cliffs – there was some discussion as to the prey's identity with dog or cat the most suggested, but also a young child was proposed (this in jest...we hope!). Above the owl, Alpine Swifts soared and more were at the hotel when we arrived, travel-weary but pleased to be there.

Day 7. Tues 20th May. A much more relaxing day, with a lot less travel and more time to relax, walk and savour the birds. Following breakfast at 07.15, we left at 08.00am on the road towards the Romanian border. Rob saw a flock of c.50 Rosy Starlings near Gorun, but

try as we might we could not find any more during the day. At Lake Durankulak we were welcomed by a male Pied Wheatear at the campsite and soon had good views of Paddyfield and Reed Warblers and two Savi's perched high in the reeds. The Paddyfields soon got going and a noisy group of four squabbled for a good five minutes close by. A few Sand Martins flew south, three male Little Bitterns lolloped by and Whiskered Terns barked overhead. We drove round to Shabla Tuzla, which held another singing Paddyfield Warbler as well as plenty of waterbirds, including Garganey, Ferruginous Ducks and our first Grey Plover; a 'blob' was a Purple Heron and two Red-footed Falcons pestered a local Kestrel.

We found a lovely picnic stop for lunch on the limestone cliffs and escarpment near the Russian war memorial at Cape Shabla: here as Liubo put it we were 'cooking on gas' for five minutes as Calandra Larks, Tawny Pipits and Quail were noted as we stepped out of the bus. On the cliffs, Pied Wheatears sang and offshore several Shags and Mediterranean Gulls passed by; an adult Arctic Skua seemed out-of-place. We had coffee and ice creams at a 'taverna' at Kamen Bryag, then as at Cape Shabla, Cape Kaliakra had skies seemingly full of singing and squabbling Calandra Larks and Skylarks; late afternoon, we found a first-summer male Montagu's Harrier and several Short-toed Larks, many Lesser Grey Shrikes, Isabelline Wheatears, breeding Bee-eaters, Rollers and, finally, persistence paid off with a pair of Stone-curlew. Our day was done and after the previous day it was nice to get back to the hotel at a civilised hour.

Day 8. Wed 21st May. We were not late for our 07.15am breakfast and 08.15 departure, heading out to Cape Kaliakra. It was a sultry and muggy day, but still plenty of activity at the cape, where 150+ Mediterranean Gulls and one Lesser Black-backed Gull sat offshore with Common Dolphins and Porpoise surfacing around them. On and around the cliffs super-close Alpine Swifts skittered, Pied Wheatears chattered and various migrants, including a singing Marsh Warbler, fed. In the nearby valley we saw Barred Warbler, more Great Reeds and Golden Orioles and a noisy drumming Syrian Woodpecker.

We headed inland via the rolling cereal fields of the Dobruja, the highlights of the journey being Rooks west of Dobric; lunch in a lovely valley near Onogur, where we saw a Long-legged Buzzard's nest, while a chosen few saw Hawfinch and a flock of passing Rosy Starlings, though we all heard the Grey-faced Woodpecker. At a chance stop at a lake south of Silistra, we found an Osprey, a Hobby, a Pheasant, but best of all were several flocks of Rosy Starlings, including one of 25 that perched and preened in a tree following a heavy rain shower. Passing through Silistra, with beers at a service station (and another flock of Rosy Starlings) we spent some time looking across Lake Srebarna, with Black-necked Grebes, Ruddy Shelduck (finally), Whiskered and Black Terns, as well as the birds it is famous for, the Dalmatian Pelicans, Spoonbills, Pygmy Cormorants, etc., and yet more flocks of Rosy Starlings, totalling 135+, flew east across the lake. Finally arriving at the lovely new guesthouse, we had a tasty meal and retired.

Day 9. Thurs 22nd May. Overnight rain precluded a proper pre-breakfast walk at Vetren, but following breakfast we drove down to the Danube and stood on the 'beach', had a group photo, then returned to the Srebarna reserve for one final hour at this great reserve. Rosy starlings were still flying past and out of the total of 165 for the day, 55 went past in one flock; Cuckoos really were common; Savi's and Great Reed Warblers could be heard in the reeds; many herons were also seen. Squeezing one last drop out of the northern Danube area, we visited another lake north of Zafirovo, at Maluk Preslavetz and had another hour's great birding: at last, Levant Sparrowhawk, a young male soared over the woods and was joined by a Goshawk, one Common and 10 Honey Buzzards; Whiskered Terns fed over the lake – though the 15 feeding over open fields later were also noteworthy. Now well behind schedule, we pushed on and finally passed Russe, got lost and eventually had a late roadside lunch. Driving south, through the contrastingly trendy town of Veliko Turnovo, we ended up at our hotel at Etara and had a late afternoon walk along the river.

Day 10. Fri 23rd May. The final pre-breakfast walk of the tour was taken at Skolski monastery, where we enjoyed an excellent excavating Black Woodpecker, its white eye glinting menacingly; Long-tailed Tits also showed well at the monastery. However, perhaps the biggest surprise of the whole trip waited as we walked down the road through the beech forest: a secretive 'pied' woodpecker turned out to be a White-backed and, though we saw it briefly, (a little is better than none) it did respond to the recording by calling softly back. Two Middle-spotteds were also seen, bringing the total woodpecker species recorded on the trip to nine – all but one of the set of European breeding species! A fantastic way to end an amazing trip.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES SEEN

Chukar *Alectoris chukar*

Two seen at the cliffs along the Krumovitz river valley on 16th, whilst looking for Rock Nuthatch

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* (H)

Two heard at Cape Shabla on 20th; one at our lunch stop near Onogur on 21st

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Three dates from 21st, all in the north or west, the last being near to Sofia on 23rd.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

One, probably an injured bird, as at the traditional wintering area north of Burgas on 18th

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Noted on six dates, all in the east and north. Several small flocks near Burgas, these were genuine "wild" Mute Swans; north at Cape Kaliakra small numbers were seen way out to sea on 21st; fewer seen in land at Srebarna.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Four dates. Seen near Pomorie and Burgas, with the largest group (14) on 19th at Pomorie salt pans

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two seen a little distantly at Lake Srebarna on 21st were much anticipated, but we enjoyed the two pairs with c.6 young each near Russe the next day more.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Four dates. Widely recorded near Burgas and at Srebarna

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Recorded in very small numbers, from our first day onwards, but chiefly in the Burgas region, Shabla Tuzla, and at Srebarna

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

One male at Burgas lake on 18th

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Two males at Burgas lake on 18th were followed by ten at Shabla Tuzla on 20th and three at Srebarna on 21st

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Several on the Burgas lakes, Shabla Tuzla and most numerous at Srebarna on 21st (c.50)

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A good scattering of this rare duck, with two at Lake Mandra on 17th, then one at Burgas on 22nd, 12 at Shabla Tuzla on 20th, and c.20 at Srebarna on 21st

Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

A poor view of a distant male offshore at Durankulak on 20th

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

One close inshore seen by Rob on 20th, but two also seen by BS (as 'leader only') from the hotel at Kavarna the same day and at Cape Kaliakra on 21st

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Seen on two dates. One heard at Cape Kaliakra valley lake and one seen at Srebarna on 21st and 22nd

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Good numbers seen in the Burgas region, c.10 offshore at Durankulak on 20th and plenty at Srebarna on 21st

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

A fine pair in breeding plumage at Srebarna on 21st

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Superb views of many, and noted on six dates. Three nests were found on cliffs along the Krumovitza river valley on 16th

European White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Recorded on nine dates and only missing from the mountains on 15th. Rather thin in numbers, except for a good passage of many 100s of birds around Burgas on 18th. Widely scattered, their bulky nests often contained small colonies of Spanish Sparrows.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*

Seen on three dates. Seven at Lake Mandra on 18th, and then small numbers flew about Srebarna on 21st and 22nd.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Four dates. The first flew over upon our arrival at Lake Mandra on 17th and we had a handful the next day; two flew over the reedbeds at Lake Srebarna on 20th and over 20 were seen the next day over the Danube at Vetren or at Srebarna.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutas*

Always nice to see and we noted it on four dates. Three at Burgas lake on 18th and similar numbers at Durankulak and Srebarna

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Seen on five dates and centred around Burgas and the NE, but most numerous at Lake Srebarna on 22nd, when we saw at least 30 around the heronry

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Noted on four dates and as with Night Heron, all concentrated around the coastal reedbeds and Srebarna. Highest day total of 14 at Durnakulak, Shabla Tuzla, and cape Shabla on 20th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Seen on seven dates, most frequently around coastal and northern wetlands

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Three days of scattered birds by Black Sea and Danube valley lakes with reedbeds

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Noted on four dates: one on the river at Krumovgrad on 17th; at Burgas lake on 18th; three on 22nd – one in flight along the Danube and two over reed-beds at Srebarna

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Seen at widespread locations, but thin in numbers on seven dates

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*

Recorded on two dates near Burgas: one at Lake Mandra causeway on 17th; over 300 on a mirror-calm Burgas lake on 18th and a few flocks in flight late

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*

Three dates, with the maximum being at least 60 at Burgas on 18th; few breeding birds at Lake Srebarna possibly due to disturbance by Wild Boar

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

Four dates, but in low numbers. The first two flew over Mandra lake on 17th and seven were there next day; only 20 at Lake Srebarna this year

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*

Seen all dates except in the mountains. Widespread; large numbers breeding on pylons in Lake Vaya and dead trees at Durankulak

European Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii*

Two days with 20 at Cape Shabla on 20th and many at Cape Kaliakra on 21st.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Noted on all dates in small scattered numbers

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Seen on four days, the first being a first-summer male at Mandra lake on 17th; a 1-s fm flew over at Goritza; a pair at Shabla Tuzla on 20th; two at Cape Kaliakra and two *en route* on 21st

Eleonora's Falcon *Falco eleonora*

One bird along the Krumovitz valley on 16th was nice

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A poor year, with just four dates and five birds. A pair was in poplars at Krumovgrad on 17th and then singles at Mandra lake, south of Silistra on 21st and on the Romanian side of the Danube on 22nd

Peregrine *Falco peregrines*

Three dates in the mountains. At Asenovgrad on 16th; two at the Trigrad gorge on 15th; one near the cliff in front of the hotel, Pamporovo on 16th

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

One, during a shower, at a reservoir south of Silistra on 21st

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Seen on four dates: the first at Polichnitsa on 17th; 30-40 passed north over the hills above Mandra lake on 18th; two at Cape Kaliakra windfarm on 20th and at least 15 over Maluk Preslavetz on 22nd

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

One day only: one patrolling the road near Pomorie on 17th

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

One day, two birds: distant views of firstly an adult by Lake Mandra on 18th, followed by a more distant bird

Egyptian Vulture *Neophron percnopterus*

Two were seen east of Karjhal, then another about the vulture cliffs on 16th; another near Potochnitsa on 17th

Eurasian Griffon *Gyps fulvus*

Noted on two dates, with a total of five birds. The first were two soaring east of Karjhal on 16th, then another with Griffons over a breeding cliff nearby; one near adult soared overhead at Potochnitsa on 17th and we also saw an adult (or at least its head) on a nest near Studen Kladenetz.

Eurasian Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*

One, with a white wing tag, east of Kardjzali on 16th

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*

Seen on just two dates: two at asenovgrad on 14th and one at poroy on 19th

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Five dates, all near the coast at Burgas north to Durankulak or over fields inland to Srebarna. A total of at least 20 scattered records

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

We struggled with this one, and saw just two birds on two dates. The first, a fine adult male near Elhovo, was unfortunately by a busy road and by the time stopped had gone; the other, this time a first-summer male, was north of Bolgarov on 20th

Lesser Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*

One young male above woodland near Maluk Preslavetz showed well for a while on 22nd

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*

Four dates and a total of five singles seen

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

A fine bird, male on size, showed excellently at Maluk Preslavetz on 22nd and actually drew our attention away from the Levant Sparrowhawk! The last of our 23 species of raptor

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Oddly enough, common, and seen almost daily throughout the tour

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*

Four dates, with a daily maximum of six on 16th

Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*

A good year for this eagle, with a total of 13 scattered over open woodland and fields on three dates from 17th. The first two performed a 'sky-dance' almost with synchronised flying

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

One adult put on a very fine show by the main road near Elhovo on 17th. Truly majestic!

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

One adult on 15th on our way to the Trigrad gorge

European Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* (H)

Two heard in reeds near Pomorie lake on 18th

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Noted on just three dates, with singles at Lake Burgas and at Srebarna on 21st and 22nd

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Five dates and widespread by Black Sea and Danube Valley lakes

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

A pair near the wind turbines at west end of Cape Kaliakra on 20th

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Just one date, with four noisy birds in flight near Pomorie Lake on 18th

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Five dates. Seen frequently on coastal pools and salt pans in the east and in the north at Srebarna

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Three dates and common on pools and salt pans in the Pomorie-Burgas area from 18th-20th

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Noted on four dates, the first five en route from Sofia on 14th, then up to 20 near Burgas on 18th

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

One at Shabla Tuzla on 20th

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

- At least 15 on Pomorie salt pans on 19th and two at Shabla Tuzla next day
- Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius***
Six dates, with birds first seen by the Krumovitzza river on 16th, then at Krumovgrad, lakes near Burgas, Pomorie, Shabla Tuzla, Cape Shabla and on the Danube
- Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***
Seen on three days. Over ten on Pomorie salt pans on 18th and one also at Shabla Tuzla
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***
Four on Lake Burgas on 18th, including three at the jetty
- Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***
Just two dates on three birds: two at Pomorie salt pans on 18th and then one the next day
- Sanderling *Calidris alba***
Three in summer plumage at Pomorie salt pans on 19th.
- Little Stint *Calidris minuta***
Seen only at the coast on three dates: 100s on Pomorie and Burgas salt pans
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***
As above, just three dates near Burgas. About 50 on 18th; 30-40 at Pomorie on 19th; six at Shabla Tuzla on 20th
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina***
Two dates, with ten on the Burgas pans on 18th and one at Pomorie the next day
- Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus***
Though we only saw one, a nice fresh, frosty adult on Burgas pans, 18th, it was still very much appreciated
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***
Seen on two days with a total of 17 birds: two at Burgas on 18th and 15 at Pomorie the next day
- Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***
One at Pomorie, late in the afternoon of 18th, was the only one proven, but two were possibly seen the day before
- Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***
Widespread, especially common on Black Sea coast and 100s seen on flooded paddies on 14th
- Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***
On 21st, an adult was seen on the sea from Cape Kaliakra
- Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus***
Very small numbers on both Black Sea coast and higher numbers in the Danube valley, where they breed at Srebarna
- Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei***
Two fine birds were seen near the hotel at Pomorie early on 18th, and possibly the same two at the Pomorie pans the next day
- Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus***
Seen on four dates, the first being at Pomorie on 18th. The highest count was 152 off Cape Kaliakra on 21st, where they fed around surfacing Common Dolphins and Porpoise – their calls carrying up the cliff-face. Most of the birds were first- or second-summer, but adults were seen at Pomorie and Cape Kaliakra
- Little Gull *Larus minutus***
Seen on two days, the first being a first-summer at Pomorie on 18th. The next day, on the pans, we saw another first-summer and a second-summer
- Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***
Many at Pomorie salt pans on 18th and 19th and a five at Durankulak and Shabla Tuzla on 20th
- Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica***
Seen on three dates. Two adults flew over the hotel calling on 18th; four were found on the pans on 19th; a first-summer and two adults passed Kavarna and Kaliakra on 21st
- Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus***
Widely recorded in small numbers on five dates. The most productive were the Black Sea lakes, with max being 30-40 on Mandra lake (mixed in with a large Black Tern flock) on 18th, 17 flew out to sea at Durankulak on 20th and many at Srebarna on 21st and 22nd. It was odd to see a flock of 15 feeding on insects over agricultural land on the last date
- Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***
Three dates. Large numbers over Mandra lake on 18th, totalling c.150 birds, with one flock of 120+ roaming about the lake; Fifteen were at Srebarna on 21st and 22nd
- Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis***
Noted on five dates, with huge numbers at The breeding colony at Pomorie on 18th and 19th, probably totalling 800 birds. Smaller numbers seen at other coastal sites
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***
Seen on six days. Widespread in small numbers along Black Sea lakes and inland to Srebarna
- Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus***
Pale morph adult did a nice fly past at Cape Tuzla on 20th
- Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia***
Widespread but not really abundant as a feral bird. Are any on the capes actually wild?
- Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus***
Seen on three dates, with ones and twos in wooded country along the Danube valley.
- European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***
Seen on eight days and it was nice to see this species was common and widespread.
- Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***
Noted on nine days in small numbers and is apparently no longer confined to just northern Bulgaria.
- Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***

Almost daily sightings, again common and widespread. There must have been 20 birds on the northern edge of Srebarna lake on 22nd, bubbling and chasing each other around

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*

Several distant birds were calling as we walked in darkness by the river at Krumovgrad on 16th, but it was nice to eventually get two in the torchlight back near the hotel – where many called throughout the night

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*

An adult feeding on its prey on the cliffs near Topola on 17th was another highlight of the trip. There was some discussion about the ID of the prey, and most hoped it was one of the many feral dogs or cats that roam around Bulgaria

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Recorded on three dates. Heard at Pamporovo on 14th, then a sad, single bird sheltering from the rain at Trigrad gorge the next day - this bird seemed a little stunned and may well have been hit by a car. Finally one was heard calling at Skolski monastery on 23rd

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Surprisingly seen on just two dates. Singles on roof tops near Krumovgrad on 17th and one at our lunch stop near Banha on 19th

Alpine Swift *Tachymarptis melba*

Seen on seven days and though in varying numbers, views were often excellent. The best we saw were at a small breeding colony near Nastan on 15th and those at Cape Kaliakra on 21st

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Recorded on seven days, from Smoljan to Burgas and elsewhere in northern lowlands

Pallid Swift *Apus pallidus*

Seen and heard on five dates, with the first parties Seen at Trigrad, then around the hotel in Pamporovo; one was seen at pomorie on 19th, then again at Etara on 22nd and 23rd

European Roller *Coracias garrulous*

Good numbers in open country, and noted on seven dates. Seen so regularly that by the end of the trip the call of ‘Roller’ no longer had the same excited reaction

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Three dates and five birds: the first at Nastan on 15th and the last on 22nd over the Danube and at Srebarna

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

Small parties widely recorded, with breeding colonies at Poroy and on roadside cliffs near Turkatan. A super bird seen on eight days

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Seen on five dates, with the highest numbers seen in the woodland at Poroy and Cape Kaliakra

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla* (H)

Heard briefly at Maluk Preslavetz on 22nd

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*

Heard at Asenovgrad on 14th then on four subsequent days

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

We struggled with this species until the last three days of the trip, when we saw one briefly at Srebarna on 21st, Rob had one at Vetren on 22nd, then two at Skolski monastery on 23rd

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos lilfordi*

The biggest surprise of the trip, and saved until the last day. One very shy bird was seen quietly feeding and flying in the beech forest below Skolski monastery, but despite responding to the call did not come back out

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*

Seen on six days, with the first on 16th, then in good numbers in open country, gardens, orchards etc in lowlands

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Again noted on six dates, from the hotel at Pamporovo to Etara, but always in dense woodland or highland areas

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

An excavating adult at the Skolski monastery on 23rd was very nice

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Recorded on four days, either seen or heard, but first seen along the Krumovitza river valley on 16th

Grey-faced Woodpecker *Picus canus* (H)

A single bout of calling from the wooded valley north of Zafirovo on 21st

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Seen daily, in variable numbers, but especially common near the coast, when 100s were seen (presumably breeders boosted by passage birds)

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

Widely recorded on six dates. From the Krumovitza river valley onwards, where associated with ‘Canadian’ poplar, but in the Kaliakra region in different habitat, maybe 200 were seen on 21st

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

Recorded on just four dates, all at sites in the eastern Rhodope mountains. A total of c.30 in all

Masked Shrike *Lanius nubicus*

Excellent views, finally, of at least three near Yerusilamov on 17th, in a hot dry valley

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Recorded on eight days, with many widely heard and seen both in flight and with a few perched in the open too, including some gorgeous males. First scope views on 16th east of Karajhali

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Widespread and seen daily

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

Widespread and seen daily

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes* (H)

One calling by our hotel at Pamporovo soon after daybreak on 16th, proved to be the only bird recorded

Eurasian Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Widespread and seen daily

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Seen on four dates, and apparently very localised in Bulgaria. We saw them around Sofia on 14th and 23rd, but also we had many around Silistra and on the drive south on 22nd

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Seen daily, largely in small numbers, but more near Sofia

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

Just four dates, with a good scatter of pairs all confined to the mountainous areas

Sombre Tit *Poecile lugubris*

At least two were feeding on the ground at Trigrad on 15th

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

Four dates, with the first birds seen on 14th near Asenovgrad. Three or four in trees near Skolski monastery at the end of the tour.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Noted on four dates. Frequent in conifers a Pamporovo and other highland sites at the start of the tour, but also at Etara at the end

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen on nine dates, being widely recorded throughout

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Seven dates, but strangely few this year but family parties at Goritza and Etara

Eurasian Penduline-tit *Remiz pendulinus*

Heard at various spots on three dates, but seen only at 'Russe's garden' by the jetty where a pair visited the nest on 18th, then a male at Srebarna on 22nd

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Just 18 flew south at Durankulak on 20th

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

Noted on six days. Scattered in the hills and gorges of the Pamporovo, Krumovgrad & Tarnovo regions

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Widespread and abundant. Seen daily

Northern House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Widespread and incredibly abundant. Seen daily

Red-rumped Swallow *Cecropis daurica*

Recorded on nine dates. Widespread in the hilly areas, with large flocks seen above Asenovgrad on the first day and others flocks indicating passage perhaps

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Noted on four dates. The first were three seen at Yerusilaminov on 17th; two at goritza and at least ten at Skolski monastery on 23rd

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*

Though seen only on two dates, we feasted with excellent views of this superb songster so especially abundant on the "limestone steppe" on the northeast coast – firstly at Cape Shabla where they sang from bushes

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*

Seen on just one date, but all had good views of several near Kaliakra on 20th, with two feeding on the road for some time

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

Six dates and widely scattered along roadsides most frequently in agricultural land

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Seen on sixes and widespread and common in open agricultural land nearer the coast

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Just one day, with three on 17th near Potochnitza

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Seen only twice, but frequently heard from reeds in the vicinity of Burgas on 18th and 19th

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Just three dates, but as you would expect all from reedbeds. Two singing birds seen well by all at Durankulak on 20th; also heard at Lake Srebarna

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Six dates, but a real treat to see and hear so many. First seen at Burgas lake on 18th, but widely recorded by Black Sea and Danube valley lakes

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

One seen at Mandra lake on 18th

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus Agricola*

Splendid views of singing birds at Durankulak on 20th (at least eight in total, with four chasing each other aggressively), plus another in song at Shabla Tuzla the same day

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Seen and heard on three dates from 18th, all in reed-beds by the Black Sea

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Noted on six dates, with one in song by the roadside stop the first afternoon. Also heard at or near Krumovgrad and at Cape Kaliakra

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*

Seen on six dates. Relatively common and widespread in shrubby waterside vegetation and most common on the coast at Kavarna

Olive-tree Warbler *Hippolais olivetorum*

Two were seen chasing each other and singing near Yerusilaminov on 17th

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

Three dates, but just two birds seen. One, a migrant, in bushes on 18th, but the best was one at Durankulak on 20th and another briefly on 21st in the wooded valley north of Zafirova

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Three, obviously migrants, in bushes near the Pomorie hotel in the morning of 19th

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Relatively widespread and chiefly heard only, though one was seen at Etara on 22nd

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Noted on nine dates and widely distributed, but few seen

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

One seen and heard singing at Goritza on 19th

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

Noted on six dates with, as always, far more heard (often in songflight) than seen. Largely inhabits bushy and woodland edge habitats so the one at Kalojanci (our first good views) was typical

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Recorded on six dates, with a scattering of less than 10 recorded, chiefly in eastern and northern Bulgaria

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Seen on seven dates. Widespread but mostly heard

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*

Just three at Burgas lake on 18th

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Recorded on two dates near the hotel at Pamporovo: three seen on 15th and one heard the next day

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Two or three seen and others heard at Pamporovo on 15th and 16th

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Noted on five dates. Heard and glimpsed in the Trigrad gorge area on 15th, along the Danube valley and at Etara

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Noted on four dates in oak woodland, firstly at Golyamo Krushevon on 17th, but also family parties at Goritza and Etara.

Western Rock Nuthatch *Sitta neumayer*

One, perhaps two, attending a nest hole in a cliff face near a Black Stork nest at Dolna Kula on 16th.

Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muralis*

Neck-breaking views of a pair at Trigrad gorge on 15th, high on the cliffs, but most interestingly also heard calling

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Heard and seen in low-lying oak woods, at Ropotamo, between Golyamo and Krushevo on 17th and in Goritza woods

Rosy Starling *Sturnus roseus*

Following Rob's single-observer flock of c.50 near Shabla Tuzla on 20th, it was a nail-biting wait for most until (panic over) several flocks were seen on 21st and 22nd. Those that settled to preen south of Silistra and also another flock that flew alongside the bus were perhaps the best. Totals were 200+ on 21st, with 135 over Srebarna, and 165 the next day at Srebarna and Maluk Preslavetz, with one flock of over 50

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Common and widespread and seen daily

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Widespread and common; noted on nine dates

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Seen or heard in woodland on eight dates, mostly along Black Sea coast and inland at Etara

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Five dates, with a scatter of singles in hilly areas; best views at Trigrad

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Widely heard in wooded areas, but few seen well

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Noted on eight days. A widespread and common species that is one of the prominent sounds of the Bulgarian countryside

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Seen on eight dates, but most frequently in the mountains and hillsides: several at Pamporovo and in the Trigrad gorge were the first

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

Two dates, but only small numbers. The first along the Krumovitza valley on 16th and several pairs en route the next day

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*

A total of about 15-20 roadside birds between Harmanli and Elhovo on 17th; three or four at Poroy on 19th; then good numbers in the Kaliakra region on 20th and 21st

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe libanotica*

Noted on four dates, with the most being at least ten at various sites (largely hilly country) on 20th. The form *libanotica* can seem especially pale and contrasting when compared to 'our' nominate

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*

Seen on two dates on the limestone cliffs of the northeast. A total of 20+ in the Kavarna/Durankulak region on 20th; good views at Cape Kaliakra the next day

Black-eared Wheatear *Oenanthe hispanica*

Just a handful of birds over two dates – 16th and 17th. Two pairs at Dolna Kula and a pair en route

Blue Rock-thrush *Monticola solitarius*

Just the one on our first day near Asenovgard monastery

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Seven days and ones and twos in many wooded areas from Nastan to Vetren – the highest numbers were at Goritza on 19th

Semi-collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquatus*

This much-wanted species was seen very well at Goritza on 19th, with at least six males and four females (one visiting a nest box)

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

We saw two – both presumably migrants and both briefly. The first was at a roadside stop to look at a Golden eagle near Nastan on 15th; the second was Rob only at Pomorie on 18th

White-throated Dipper *Cinclus cinclus aquaticus*

Seen on three dates in fast-moving mountain streams: at Asenovgrad on 14th; at a nest at Trigrad on 15th and Etara on 22nd

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Seen almost daily. Common and widespread, but missed in the Rhodope mountains

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*

Locally common and quite widespread; including nesting birds in stork nests.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Noted on nine dates and in some places common (e.g Maluk Preslavetz), but very few in the southern mountains – though first seen at Trigrad on 15th

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Singles seen and heard in song about Pamporovo on 15th and 16th

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Noted on five dates, with the first near Elhovo at a brief stop on 17th. All but one seen were Black-headed ssp *feldegg*, which is sometimes split-off as a species, but one at Cape Kaliakra on 21st was a nominate *flava* – Blue-headed Wagtail. One or two birds showed a hint of a supercilium, indicating hybridity

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Seen and heard on six dates, but most commonly recorded in the Rhodope and central Balkan mountains at each end of the tour

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Seen daily and widespread in small numbers

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

About ten were seen from Cape Shabla south to Kaliakra on 20th

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Common and widespread. Some had a strange Great Spotted Woodpecker-like ‘kick’ at the end of their song

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Several pairs about Trigrad village on 15th and heard at Pamporovo the next day

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Seen daily and widespread but in small numbers

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common and widespread

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Seen on six dates, with the most at Poroy on 19th

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

A pair at our hotel at Pamporovo on 16th.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Two seen, others heard, in trees about Pamporovo on 15th

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A good scattering of birds seen on seven dates. The best views for most were at Poroy on 19th, where two family parties totalling ten birds fed just above our heads (though elusive at times)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

Seen daily apart from our day in the high mountains

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

One at Pamporovo on 16th; two at Golyamo on 17th and then at Etara on 23rd

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*

One male at trigrad gorge on 15th and one at Ardino on 16th were the sum total for the trip

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*

Noted on four dates, with the first on the first day at Asenovgrad on 14th. The best view was at Poroy on 19th, where at least ten were seen including several bathing

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Five days and scattered locations throughout the trip

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*

Seen on seven dates at fairly widespread sites: from the first day near Plovdiv to the coast near Kaliakra, but absent in the north

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus intermedia*

Three or four at Lake Durankulak and at Shabla Tuzla

[Two leader-only species

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

One at Vetren on 22nd

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Two seen at Pamporovo on 16th.]

OTHER POPULAR FORMS OF WILDLIFE

Butterflies – 48 species seen

[Sequence and taxonomy follows Tolman & Lewington (1997) *Collins Field Guide to the Butterflies of Britain & Europe*]

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*
Southern Festoon *Zerynthia polyxena*
Eastern Festoon *Zerynthia cerisyi*
Black-veined White *Aporia crataegi*
Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Small White *Artogeia rapae*
Southern Small White *Artogeia manni*
Green-veined White *Artogeia napi*
Eastern Bath White *Pontia edusa*
Eastern Dappled White *Euchloe ausonia*
Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*
Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*
Berger's Clouded Yellow *Colias alfacariensis*
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow *Colias erate*
Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Eastern Wood White *Leptidea duponcheli*
Black Hairstreak *Satyrrium pruni*
Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*
Small Copper *Lycaena phleas*
Grecian Copper *Lycaena ottoman*
Sooty Copper *Lycaena tityrus*
Little Blue *Cupido minimus*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Large Blue *Maculinea arion*
Idas Blue *Plebejus idas*
Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
Chapman's Blue *Agrodiaestus thersites*
Adonis Blue *Lysandra bellargus*
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Peacock *Inachis io*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*
Comma *Polygonum c-album*
Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*
Queen of Spain Fritillary *Isoria lathonia*
Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*
Freyer's Fritillary *Melitaea arduinna*
Lesser Spotted Fritillary *Melitaea didyma*
Marsh Fritillary *Euphydryas aurinia*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Chestnut Heath *Coenonympha glycerion*
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*
Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*
Large Wall Brown *Lasiommata maera*
Orbed Red-underwing Skipper *Spialia orbifer*
Mallow Skipper *Carcharodus alaceae*

Mammals

Harbour Porpoise *Phocaena phocaena*
Common Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*
Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
European Hare *Lepus europaeus*
[Road casualties included Badger, Pine Marten, Hedgehog and Mole]

Amphibians

Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina*
Yellow-bellied Toad *Bombina variegata*
European Green Toad *Pseudepildalea viridis*
European Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*
Common Frog *Rana temporaria*
Agile Frog *Rana dalmatina*
Common Marsh Frog *Pelophylax ridibundus*

Dragonflies

Sequence and taxonomy follows Dijkstra & Lewington (2006) *Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain & Europe*.

Azure Bluet (Azure Damselfly) *Coenagrion puella*
Blue Featherleg (White-legged Damselfly) *Platycnemis pennipes*
Green-eyed Hawker (Norfolk Hawker) *Aeshna isosceles*
Blue Emperor (Emperor Dragonfly) *Anax imperator*
Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*
Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*
Southern Skimmer *Orthetrum brunneum*
Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

Notable flowering plants

Elder-flowered Orchid
Birds-nest Orchid
Loose-flowered Orchid
Early Marsh Orchid