

Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

1 - 10 May 2010



Tour houseboat on the Danube Delta



Sunset on the Delta



Scarce Swallowtail



Dalmatian Pelicans

Images & report compiled by Geoff Carr



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Day 1

Saturday 1st May

Sunny and clear 20°C

Everyone met at Heathrow before boarding the BA flight to Bucharest at 1120. A smooth 3 hour flight and after cloud over Western Europe we then had splendid views of mountains and forest as we approached Bucharest. After passport control and collecting our bags we were met by our local guide, Florin, and then onto the mini-bus out of the airport towards Zaranesti in the north. On our drive out of Bucharest, through farmland, we saw White Stork, Kestrel, Crested Lark and Corn Bunting. As we neared Sinaia, the landscape changed to rolling, deciduous forest of Hornbeam, Beech and Oak with Common Buzzard soaring overhead and groups of migrating Swallows passing through. We stopped for coffee near Sinaia and saw Buzzard, Raven, Goldcrest and Serin. From here we continued north towards the snow-capped Carpathian Mountains and arrived at the Elena Hotel in Zarnesti at 8.30pm for our evening meal. After a long day and an excellent meal with local wine we were all soon to our rooms and to bed.

Day 2

Sunday 2nd May

Sunny and clear 25°C

We met for breakfast at 0800 and after making up our individual picnic lunches we were away in the mini-bus from the Elena Hotel to the Stramba Valley. We arrived there at 1000 with the weather sunny and clear and ideal for birding and butterfly-watching. The Stramba Valley providing an ideal mixed habitat of initially broad meadows and then narrowing down towards the mountains with an amphitheatre of Hornbeam, Beech, Oak, Wild Pear, Apple and Cherry and Hazel woodland changing to Beech, Hornbeam and Spruce with altitude. The day consisted of walking parts of the valley and being transported by the mini-bus on other stretches.

On the first part of the walk through the meadows we had 6 Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Black Stork, Golden Oriole, Cuckoo, Hawfinch, Woodlark and Red-backed Shrike as starters with Swallowtail, Scarce Swallowtail, Brimstone, Orange-tip, Common Glider, Silver-washed Fritillary and Mountain Small White butterflies. We had lunch on a meadow slope with Grey-backed Woodpecker in attendance and a number of Brimstone and swallowtail butterflies drifting past.

After lunch we drove into the valley and the start of the Beech/Spruce woodland. Here we followed a woodland path and found the tracks of Red Deer, Roe Deer, Wild Boar and a single Wolf. Orange-bellied Toads were in pools by the path and Florin caught an individual for close inspection. Along this path we also had Red-breasted Flycatcher, Blackcap, Garden Warbler, Marsh Tit and Willow Tit.

At 1800 we had a picnic snack and then drove along another track to the bear hide. We walked over a small wooden bridge, along a path and entered the hide while the ranger put out bait in hollow logs for the bears. After about 45 minutes a female Brown Bear with two large cubs came to the bait. They were nervous at first and listening for other bears approaching. There then followed a sequence where a number of families of Brown Bear came and went giving excellent close views and photo opportunities. As it became darker we left at 2030 but during this time we had 14 brown Bear of various ages visiting the bait. We were back at the Elena Hotel for a meal at 2200 after a really eventful first day.

Day 3

Monday 3rd May

Sunny 25°C

Some people were up at 0700 and admiring the views of the mountains rising from beyond the village or looking around the original Saxon village. Cattle are let out of the homesteads along the streets and collected along the way by someone who takes the now large herd out to graze on nearby meadows. Pre-breakfast we had Swift, Swallow, House Martin, White Stork and Black Redstart around the village.

Breakfast at 0800 again and we departed soon after on the coach to the nearby Zaranesti Gorge, an impressive limestone gorge clad with Beech and Spruce. After parking the mini-bus we walked along the gorge with our first bird being a Tawny Owl calling from the woodland. A small flock of Alpine Swift and a couple of Crag Martin were chasing around a high limestone crag and prospecting for nest sites. There were interesting plants along the route with Alpine Snowbell, Cowslip, Oxlip and Wood Sorrel. A little further along the gorge the bird group from the Netherlands, who were also staying at the Elena Hotel, were watching for Wallcreeper and found a pair with a nest site really low down on the cliff face. They had good views of a male and female at the nest site. We waited for a while hoping for the same experience and eating our picnic but the female was back on the nest deep inside a fissure but we did have excellent views of the male feeding on a nearby rock face. Sometimes a difficult species to find, at least that one was out of the way on our last day in the mountains.

We walked back down the gorge to the mini-bus and then drove through Bran and past Dracular's castle to an alpine meadow. Here we had fantastic, clear views of the snow-clad mountains all around and a mosaic of woodland and pasture on the lower slopes. We had two Hobby perched in a nearby tree, a group of migrating White Stork, Tree Pipit and Northern Wheatear. The area contained a range of interesting plants such as Gentian, Yellow Wood Anemone, Wood Anemone, Mountain Violet, Elderflower Orchid and Green-winged Orchid.

From here we drove back to the hotel, stopping for photos of Dracular's castle in Bran on route and arrived back for evening dinner at 1930. It was a warm, starry evening with the silhouette of the mountains rising up beyond the village of Zaranesti.

Day 4

Tuesday 4th May

Sunny with some cloud 18°C

We were up at 0630, breakfast at 0700 and away on the road out of the Carpathians by 0800 towards Bucharest and then Tulcea on the Danube for the start of our next leg of the tour on the Danube Delta. On the long journey to the Danube Delta we drove out of the Carpathians and east through an undulating landscape where cereals, sunflowers and grapes were growing. During the morning drive and at the picnic lunch stop we saw White Stork, Black Stork, Steppe Buzzard, Long-eared Owl, Honey Buzzard, Hobby, 10+ Red-footed Falcon, Thrush Nightingale, Pied Flycatcher and a superb Red-breasted Flycatcher. From here we drove east to a lake where we were fortunate to see Purple Heron, Spoonbill, Black-necked Grebe, Ferruginous Duck, Avocet, Wood Sandpiper and Great Reed Warbler.

After a few more hours we crossed the Danube where there were White Storks and surprisingly, Northern Lapwing breeding on flooded rice-fields. As we neared Tulcea on the Danube we stopped at a lake with rolling steppe as a backdrop. Here we found Ruddy Shelduck, Nightingale, Bee-eater, Roller and Whiskered Tern. Towards Tulcea a few Calandra Larks and Corn Buntings were evident on the rolling Steppe habitat. This Steppe habitat was now mostly intensive cultivation growing cereals and sunflowers but seeped in history with early nomadic tribes and evidence of the Tartar burial mounds on each prominent hill. A mixture of people had passed through or settled here, Greeks, Romans, Goths, Vandals, Tartars, Gypsy's and Turks – a crossroads of people throughout history. The road then descended through a vast area of vineyards towards Tulcea and the Danube Delta in the distance. We finally arrived at Tulcea on the Danube and boarded our houseboat, which was to be home for the next few days. As the sun was setting we had a welcome drink and an excellent dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 5th May

Sunny 21°C

A mild, sunny day in Tulcea with the Danube flowing strongly out towards the Delta with light river traffic crossing to each side of the river taking people to work. We had breakfast and then our journey through the Delta began. We headed downriver in the smaller exploratory boat along the main Tulcea Branch channel before turning north onto a narrow, quiet waterway. The Danube water level was around 2m higher than last year and had flooded over the banks of the water channels. We cruised along a channel flanked by willows giving views into small lake areas and into the Willow Carr woodland where a chorus of Thrush Nightingale song accompanied us. We had brilliant, close views of many species such as Pygmy Cormorant, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, Great White Egret, Kingfisher, Black Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, Redstart, Roller, Muskrat and surprisingly a rare Raccoon Dog as we threaded our way along the channels before meeting up with the houseboat on the main Sulina channel for lunch. What an experience, a morning bird chorus on the Delta!

After an excellent three course lunch we went a short walk around the old park at Maliuc where we had Grey-headed Woodpecker, Redstart, Chiffchaff, Long-tailed Tit (white-headed race) and Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. Back in the houseboat, we cruised east along the Sulina channel, passing villages with views out to areas of reed and farmland. We saw lots of Marsh Harrier, Glossy Ibis and Egrets but also a very large passage of both White-winged Tern and Black Tern. Hundreds of both species were constantly passing the houseboat on migration. By late afternoon we turned away from the main channel and headed north along a quiet waterway and moored up for the night near a vast area of reed habitat with Bittern booming, Marsh Harriers hunting, and Cuckoos and Marsh Frogs calling, as well as a fantastic sunset over the reeds. In the fading light a couple of Savi's Warbler were singing close to the boat, and as the stars appeared we all enjoyed the feeling of being in a special wilderness area.

Day 6

Thursday 6th May

Sunny and some cloud 20°C

We awoke to a clear, sunny day with Cuckoos calling. Some of the group had a pre-breakfast walk along the channel bank and had a Little Crake calling in the reeds, lots of Marsh Harrier and a small number of Bearded Tit.

After breakfast we boarded the small boat and cruised the Mugearu Channel to the village of Letea some 5km away. Along the channel Bittern were booming, and Red-footed Falcon, Great Reed Warbler, Penduline Tit and Bearded Tit were observed. Letea village is situated on an old sandbar formed a few thousand years ago by the anti-clockwise current of the Black Sea. Nearby is the ancient and original forest with some unique species of Ash and Oak trees that were brought as seeds on the current from the Crimea. We reached the village along a water-lily fringed channel; we disembarked and walked along the flood-bank to a wet grassland, finding Purple Heron, Garganey, Wood Sandpiper, a smart Collared Flycatcher, a small number of Red-throated Pipit in summer plumage and then into an ancient woodland habitat consisting of old Oaks, Ash and Aspen. In the woodland we had Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Thrush Nightingale and Red-breasted Flycatcher.

We walked back alongside Letea, a linear village of blue wooden houses. The past inhabitants were Haholi people who were deported from an area north-east of the Ukraine around 1920 and still have a simple life of fishing and agriculture. There was a large population of Tree Sparrows in the village and a number of migrant Redstarts. By late morning we were back on the small boat and retraced our route to the houseboat for lunch. We moved to the Eracle Channel and visited the Lopatna Channel with sightings of Dalmatian Pelican, Great White Egret, Spoonbill, Black Tern and White-winged Tern, Grey-headed Woodpecker and Redstart. Then back to the houseboat for our evening meal and another peaceful evening in the wilderness.

Day 7

Friday 7th May

Cloudy with some sun 20°C

We were up at 0600 and out on the small boat before breakfast to visit the nearby Pygmy Cormorant colony. It was unfortunate that this year the colony had been deserted and it was obvious from birds flying overhead the colony had shifted a few kilometres away and was not accessible.

After watching Red-necked Grebe and various Tern species we went back to the houseboat for breakfast. After breakfast the morning's trip took us north on the Eracle Channel, which leads to the Stipoc Channel. It was very peaceful with no-one else around in this vast reed and willow habitat, which teems with wildlife. We had excellent views of Red-necked Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Ferruginous Duck, White-winged Tern, Black Tern, Black Woodpecker, Penduline Tit with nests, Bearded Tit, Great Reed Warbler and Savi's Warblers. Overhead were lines of White Pelican and occasional Hobby hunting for dragonflies.

We rejoined the houseboat for lunch and then the return journey to Tulcea. Again, lots of species of birds were seen on the journey back along the water channels, particularly 10 White-tailed Eagle, Roller, Hobby, Red-footed Falcon, Cuckoo, Golden Oriole, Kingfisher and Stock Dove. We reached Tulcea by late afternoon and had evening dinner and overnight accommodation on the houseboat. It was another clear evening over Tulcea with the various star formations and the "plough" evident in the northern sky. It was a fitting end to our journey through the Danube Delta and a unique experience of one of Europe's last wilderness sites.

Day 8

Saturday 8th May

Sunny and some cloud 24°C

Breakfast was at 0730 and it was to be a clear, sunny day. We said our goodbyes to the houseboat staff and departed in the coach through Tulcea and to the west. Our first stop was at an old quarry and here we had Stone Curlew and Northern Wheatear on the nearby pasture and Bee-eater flying around catching insects. On the entrance to the quarry we had Tawny Pipit on a track and Long-legged Buzzard with a nest up on the cliff-face. The quarry itself had at least 3 pair of Pied Wheatear which were chasing about and sorting out territories. We then drove to Telita Ogurlui, a habitat of wood pasture consisting of Oak, Hornbeam and Wild Pear. We were lucky and found Sombre Tit early on and from its agitated behaviour it obviously had a nest nearby. Here we also found Lesser Spotted Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard, 'Steppe' Buzzard, Honey Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk, Woodlark, Red-backed Shrike, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Barred Warbler, Ortolan Bunting and an area covered in red Peonies. As we had our picnic lunch back at the coach we had a Wryneck in a small tree nearby with Swallowtail and Scarce Swallowtail Butterflies drifting past on the warm air.

After lunch we drove on to the Macin Hills, the oldest rock formations in Romania which belong to the 'Caledonian Period'. On the dry slope to the hills there was at least 50 pair of breeding Isabelline Wheatear which has increased dramatically since they were first discovered there in 2000. Here there was lots of Suslik, which is a type of ground squirrel, and found on the "steppe" areas of Romania and up into the Ukraine. The Isabelline Wheatears use the burrows of the Suslik to nest in. A steep rock formation produced a pair of Rock Thrush and a fleeting sight of a Merlin flying through with a small number of Long-legged Buzzards hanging in the up-draught. With everyone satisfied with the eventful day and hungry we departed to our guest house in Tulcea.

Day 9

Sunday 9th May

Sunny with some cloud 20°C

After breakfast we departed in the coach to the "steppe" to the south of Tulcea and then the Black Sea coast. We continued on through interesting Turkish Muslim villages to a wooded "steppe" habitat with lots of various plants such as Feather Grass, Lady Orchid, Butterfly Orchid and many more.

Ortolan Bunting were singing all around and occasional Honey Buzzard drifting over. From here we drove south to a series of wetland habitats near the Black Sea at Histria where thousands of Sand Martins were feeding over the fields and Yellow Wagtails of various sub-species were scurrying about catching flies. First we visited some shallow pools near where local people were harvesting reeds for thatching. Here there were lots of Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Little Gull and a couple of Caspian Tern.

In the wet areas near Histria we had excellent sightings of 8 Paddyfield Warbler singing high in the reeds, Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Collared Pratincole, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper in summer plumage, Little Stint, Black-tailed Godwit and Ruff in large numbers. Also we found 2 Red-necked Phalarope in summer plumage spinning around on the shallow pools catching insects and 4 Broad-billed Sandpiper feeding with the other wader. There were so many birds at Histria to see that we had lunch here to spend more time observing everything around us and in particular, a migration of up to 40 Hobby passing over. After lunch we drove on through a heavy shower to Vadu which is an old communist era factory and now out of use. At Vadu we observed another good selection of waders such as Collared Pratincole, Kentish Plover, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, Wood Sandpiper, Ruff and Greenshank.

In the late part of the afternoon we spent some time along the edge of the Black Sea watching a few Little Tern and Sandwich Tern, Yelkouan Shearwater, Turnstone and Arctic Skua. Lots of Red-backed Shrikes were on the bushes along the coastline. It started raining quite heavy so we retreated back to the coach and travelled back towards Tulcea. The weather cleared as we neared the town and we arrived back at the guesthouse by 7pm and later our last dinner in Romania.

Day 10

Monday 10th May

Sunny 25°C

After breakfast we boarded our coach at 0900 to take us to the airport in Bucharest. On the journey we spotted a number of birds by the roadside but none to boost our final total for the trip of 192 species. Our BA flight to Heathrow departed on time and we climbed away from Romania and back over Western Europe. It had been a really successful, eventful and informative holiday thanks to our Romanian guide, Florin and everyone who participated in the tour.

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Species Lists

Birds (h = heard only)

	Scientific name	Common name	May											
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
1	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>					4		18					
2	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				2	10		2					
3	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				2	100	30	30					
4	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>					20	10	30					
5	Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>											2	
6	White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>					300	200	250	4	200			
7	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus philippensis</i>					3	15	10				2	
8	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				1	✓	✓	✓				20	
9	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>					✓	✓	✓	6				
10	Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					3h	2h	1h				1	
11	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>												
12	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					50	50	100	6	6			
13	Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					100	100	80					
14	Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>				2	10	20	5	2	10			
15	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>				4	75	50	50				12	
16	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				8	20	2	10	2	10			
17	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>				1	10	30	30				3	
18	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	25	1	30	100	20	6	3	5	10	10		
19	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		2		1								
20	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>					50	20	75					
21	Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				1	2	2	3	100	30			
22	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>				20	✓	20	100				100	
23	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>				3	20	25	50				50	
24	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>				2							20	
25	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>				3							17	
26	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		1		1	20	20	20				6	
27	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>					3	6	10				6	
28	Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>											5	
29	Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>											1	
30	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					8	2	3				10	
31	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>											10	
32	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>							4					
33	Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>				10	30	30	50				20	
34	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>				3	7	20	15				2	
35	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					4		10	1				
36	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		6							4			
37	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>				1								
38	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>									2			
39	Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>				3	20	18	10	2	20	10		
40	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				1					15	3		
41	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	6	10	6	4					10			
42	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		2							4	1		
43	Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		2		1								
44	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									3	1		
45	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>									1			
46	Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			2		5	15	20	10	40	5		
47	Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	1		15	20		1	1	2	4	2		

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
48	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco verspertinus</i>				7	20	23	10		50	
49	Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		1			3	2	2	1		
50	Little Crane	<i>Porzana parva</i>					1h					
51	Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				1	10	4	4		3	
52	Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>				10	50	10	30		3	
53	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>				1		2			50	
54	Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>				2					10	
55	Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>								5	2	
56	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>									50	
57	Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>									6	
58	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>									2	
59	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>									10	
60	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1			5		10	10		40	
61	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>									1	
62	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>									15	
63	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>									100	
64	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>									4	
65	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>									100	
66	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>									1	
67	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>						25			50	
68	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				1						
69	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>									2	
70	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						1			6	
71	Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>									2	
72	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						6				
73	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>									2	
74	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					5	4	50		500	
75	Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>									2	
76	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>				20	30			2	10	
77	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>									1	
78	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>				✓	✓	10		6	30	
79	Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>									50	
80	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>									2	
81	Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>									2	
82	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				4	30	40	30		50	
83	Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>									3	
84	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					1000s	30	50		12	
85	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					1000s	20	6		10	
86	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>					200	20	100		50	
87	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
88	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>					1		2			
89	Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		2		2	4	15	10	2	1	
90	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		10	10	✓	10	1	2	50	50	10
91	Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>								3		
92	Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		6	1	5	20	20	25	6	5	
93	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>				1						
94	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			1h							
95	Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>			12	2						
96	Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		10	30	50	20		50	50		
97	Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>					30	3	10			
98	Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>				3	3	3	3	6	10	

	Scientific name	Common name	May									
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
99	Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				3		2	8	50	20	
100	Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>				4	40	5	25	25	6	
101	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>					1	1	3	1h		
102	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		2	1		5	1	5			
103	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>				1						
104	Great-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>					4	1	4	1		
105	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>								1		
106	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>					1h		1			
107	Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								1		
108	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		2		20				6	10	
109	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>								1	3	
110	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		2						15		
111	Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>								1		
112	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>				1					4	
113	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				2		15		100s	100s	
114	Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>			4							
115	House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	3	4	20	50			10	50	50	
116	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	10	30	10	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
117	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>								2		
118	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		3	2							
119	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>						20				
120	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		6	6		20	5	6	6	4	
121	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		4	10		1		2			
122	Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				3		2		2	20	
123	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1h	1h							
124	Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>		1								
125	Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			1h							
126	Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				2h						
127	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					50	5	20		2	
128	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>					1					
129	Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					30	1	10	1		
130	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		1	3					1		
131	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			2	1	1			10	6	
132	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>								50		
133	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>								6		
134	Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>								1		
135	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		6			1	1		6	1	
136	Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>								2		
137	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		2	2	10	4		1	10		
138	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	2	1	1	1						
139	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1	2			1				
140	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>			3							
141	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		4			6	2				
142	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>								2		
143	Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		10	1	2	20	5	10	2	1	
144	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1		1	7	5	2	1		
145	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				1				2		
146	Subalpine Warbler	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>									1	
147	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>							4			
148	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					1	17	5			
149	Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					1	3	6			

	Scientific name	Common name	May										
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
150	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>										8	
151	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				1	10	15				2	
152	Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>					1						
153	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>										1h	
154	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						2h					
155	Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		4	2	1	5	2h	2h			1	
156	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>		2	1								
157	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>			1								
158	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>				1	1						
159	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2	6	1	1	10	6	6				
160	Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>		2				10	10			1	
161	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>		2	6								
162	Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>		2									
163	Willow Tit	<i>Parus montanus</i>		1									
164	Sombre Tit	<i>Parus lugubris</i>									1		
165	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		1			5	3					
166	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>						15	6				
167	Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						1	1				
168	Wallcreeper	<i>Tichodroma muraria</i>			2								
169	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>						1					
170	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		4		15	1	1		20	50		
171	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								1	3		
172	Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	10	10	6	✓	30	15	20	20	30	5	
173	Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	1	2	1	2				1	2		
174	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	30			✓	✓			50	20	20	
175	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	4		15	30	✓	✓	✓	✓	8		
176	Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	30		6	20	20		20	20	50		
177	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	1	2						2			
178	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	30	10	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
179	Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		3		1	8	5	5	15			
180	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>				3						10	
181	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	20	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
182	Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>						2	2	30			
183	Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2	10	6	1	10	4	2	2	2		
184	Linnet	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>		2									
185	Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	10		2								
186	Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	1										
187	Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2	4			4			2	2		
188	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		3						4			
189	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		4		1				1			
190	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>								1			
191	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>								10	4		
192	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>						3	3		1		
193	Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				30			2	30	20		

Mammals

Brown Bear
Red Squirrel
Raccoon Dog
Fox

Roe Deer
Suslik
Musk Rat

Mole
Eastern Hedgehog
Steppe Hare

Reptiles & amphibians

Dice Snake (Water Snake)
Edible Frog
European Pond Terrapin
Snake-eyed Skink

Marsh Frog
Balkan Wall Lizard
Fire-bellied Toad
Grass Snake

Tree Frog
Spur-thighed Tortoise
Yellow-bellied Toad

Butterflies

Painted Lady
Small Tortoiseshell
Brimstone
Mountain Small White
Small White
Balkan Clouded Yellow
Marbled White
Queen of Spain Fritillary
Brown Argus
Skipper spp

Peacock
Russian Heath
Common Glider
Scarce Swallowtail
Green-veined White
Berger's Clouded Yellow
Small Copper
Common Blue
Silver-washed Fritillary

Comma
Orange Tip
Swallowtail
Large White
Small Heath
Speckled Wood
Adonis Blue
Sliver Studded Blue
Glanville Fritillary

Selected trees & plants recorded by Elizabeth Curtis

2 May Zarnesti, Transylvania

Green Winged Orchid	<i>Orchis morio</i>
Goldilocks Buttercup	<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>
Dusky Cranesbill	<i>Geranium phaeum</i>
Yellow Archangel	<i>Lamiaeum galeobdolon</i>
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>
Alt Leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Greater Celandine	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>
Hellebore	<i>Helleborus viridis?</i>
Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>
Greater Stitchwort	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>
A Bittercress	
Bright pink Yellow Anemone	<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>
Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>
Birthwort	<i>Asarum europaeum</i>
Aristolochia	
Beech	<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>
Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>

3 May Piatra Craiului National Park

Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Alt Leaved Golden Saxifrage	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>
Birthwort	<i>Asarum europaeum</i>
Woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>
Carpathian Viola	
Endemic Narcissus-flowered anemone	<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>
Yellow Anemone	<i>Anemone ranunculoides</i>
Blue Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone appennina</i>
Snowbell	<i>Soldanella (?hungaria)</i> Precise species not known
Wood Sorrell	<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>
Hartstongue fern	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Comfrey	
Symphytum	Species not known – creamy yellow flowers, common

Meadow Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Oxlip	<i>Primula elatior</i>
?	<i>leucophylla</i> (E Carpathians)
Wood Anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>
Narcissus-flowered anemone	<i>Anemone narcissiflora</i>
Dog's tooth Violet	<i>Erythronium dens-canis</i>
Tormentil –	
Golden Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla aurea</i>
Spring Gentian	<i>Gentiana verna</i>
Pansy	
Viola	Species not known – range of colours
Elder-flower Orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza sambucina</i>
Yellow Gagea	<i>Gagea fistulosa?</i>

4 May - On the way to Tulcea – Lunch stop – wood

Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>
Houndstongue	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Red Dead Nettle	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>
Cypress Spurge	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>
Crosswort	<i>Galium cruciata</i>
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>
Corn Gromwell	<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>
Hoary Cress	<i>Cardaria draba</i> Extremely common/roadsides/invasive
Dovesfoot Cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Acacia	coppiced

5 – 8 May – Danube Delta

C. Reed	<i>Phragmites communis</i>
Comfrey	
Symphytum	? species
Spurge	<i>Euphorbia palustris</i>
A Yellow Cress	<i>Rorippa sylvestris</i>
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Yellow Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea lutea</i>
White Waterlily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>
Thorow-wax	<i>Bupleurum rotundifolium</i>
Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i> On floating reedbeds
Pondweeds, various	
Potamogeton	Species not known

6 May – Walk towards Wood

Water Crowfoot	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i>
A Catchfly	<i>Silene sericea?</i>
Striped calyx,	small pink flower
Stork's Bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Small flowered Mallow	<i>Malva parviflora</i>
Henbit	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>
Yellow Iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Corn Gromwell	<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>
Heartsease pansy	<i>Viola tricolor</i>
Ash (downy)	<i>Fraxinus pallisiae</i>
Aspen	<i>Populus tremula</i>
Poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>
Balkan Oak	<i>Quercus pedunculiflora</i> Has long-stalked acorns
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>

Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>
A Sedge	<i>Carex colchicum</i>
Creeping Jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>

8 May Quarry, Machin Wood and higher up

Tufted Vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>
Wild mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>
Stork's Bill	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>
Kidney Vetch	<i>Anthyllus vulneraria</i>
Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>
Balkan Oak	<i>Quercus pedunculiflora</i>
Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>
Higher up	
Wild Pear	<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>
Yellow Mistletoe	<i>Loranthus europaeus</i>
Oriental Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>
Parsley Piert	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>
Spiked Speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>
Strawberry	<i>Fragaria viridis</i>
Hairy Tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Purple Mullein	<i>Verbascum purpureum</i>
Herbaceous Periwinkle	<i>Vinca herbacaea</i>
Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>
Nodding Sage	<i>Salvia nutans</i>
	<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>
	<i>Tenureum laxmannii</i>
Spurge (Steppe)	<i>Euphorbia stepposa</i>
Peony	<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>
Cornflower	<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>
Peasant's Eye	<i>Adonis annua</i>
Ground Pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>
Monkswort	<i>Nonea pulla</i>
Broomleaved Toadflax	<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>
Steppe Violet	
A Sandwort	<i>Moehringia grisebachii</i>
Woodland sage	<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>
A Flax	<i>Linum austriacum</i>
Hoary Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>
Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>

9 May Babadag Forest

Herbaceous Periwinkle	<i>Vinca herbacaea</i>
A Flax	<i>Linum austriacum</i>
Nodding Sage	<i>Salvia nutans</i>
Iris (German)	<i>Iris suaveolens</i>
	<i>Cholearea lobata</i>
A Steppe grass	<i>C Globularia</i>
	<i>Globularia punctata</i>
A Spurge	<i>Euphorbia dobrogensis</i>
Ground Pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>
Smoke Tree	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>
Downy Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>
Spiked Speedwell	<i>Veronica spicata</i>
Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>
Asparagus	<i>Asparagus verticillatus</i>

Lady Orchid	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>
Tufted Milkwort	<i>Polygala comosa</i>
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>
Wild Mignonette	<i>Reseda lutea</i>
	<i>Centaurea marshalliana</i>
	<i>Astragalus glaucus</i>
Peony	<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>
Feather Grass	<i>Stipa?</i>
A Steppe grass	
Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>
	<i>Salvia nodosa</i>
A Clematis	<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>
Swallow-wort	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>
Purple Mullein	<i>Verbascum purpureum</i>
Flowering or Manna Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>
Snowdrop Anemone	<i>Anemone sylvestris</i>
Monkey Orchid	<i>Orchis simia</i>
False Vetch	<i>Astragalus monspessulanus</i>
	<i>Jurinea mollis</i>

Vadu District - Lagoons – Black Sea

Purple Mullein	<i>Verbascum purpureum</i>
A Catchfly	<i>Silene sericea?</i>
A Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum</i>
A Spurge	<i>Euphorbia</i>
A Glasswort	<i>Salicornia</i>
Another Glasswort	<i>Salicornia</i> Species not known – v rare
Sea Aster	<i>Aster tripolium</i>
Sea Lavender	<i>Limonium</i> Species not known
Sea Kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i> Black Sea