Greece – Lake Kerkini in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 12 May 2018

Report compiled by Philip Thompson



Tour participants: Philip Thompson (leader) with eight 8 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 5th May

After a flight from the UK we arrived safely into Thessaloniki. After some fun and games shuttling about to collect the group vehicle, we were eventually underway on the quick and straightforward transfer to Lake Kerkini.

Arriving in the village of Hrisohorafa, we were met by Nicos and his family and soon settled into our rooms. Time was still available to take a short excursion towards the lake with a visit to the Pumping Station. The weather was unusually hot and humid, which rather sapped the enthusiasm of the group, but we were able to familiarise ourselves with several birds and dragonflies of the area. Hot, thirsty and a little bedraggled, we headed back to freshen up before our first meal in one of the local restaurants a short walk from the guesthouse.

Day 2

Sunday 6th May

We began our day by returning to the Pumping Station, where we had a second attempt at connecting with the Penduline Tit seen yesterday with little success. We then drove up onto the Eastern Embankment and began to slowly make our way north, stopping at frequent intervals along the way to disembark and watch various birds that showed along the route. Bee-eaters were present in large numbers feeding over the embankment wall and present all along our journey. Shrikes were also well represented with small numbers of Red-backed, Lesser Grey and Masked, all seen at various intervals. On the lake it was not long before we had spotted both Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans, and both Great and Pygmy Cormorants. Herons and egrets were well represented with a highlight of a small roosting flock of Squacco Herons disturbed from their favourite tree as we passed.

The morning flew by with something of interest constantly in view, especially considering the group were interested in not only the birds but the flowers, butterflies and dragonflies, also all of which produced something of note. We eventually reached a shaded picnic site at the north-eastern corner of the lake where we stopped to have our lunch. We took pity on a small stray dog being bullied and harassed by a couple of larger (and well fed) strays that kept it away from the scraps presented by us and the other dining groups present.

At the start of the afternoon we travelled on through Vironia up to a small quarry in the mountains. Here we successfully picked out both Blue Rock Thrush and Black-eared Wheatear on the bushes and rocks above us. After enjoying the flowers and views, we headed back down to travel on to the east and alongside the Strimonas River, where we visited some old disused carp ponds. They were holding a reasonable amount of water resulting in a nice selection of passage waders, Spoonbills and Glossy Ibis.

Heading back we fortunately spotted a Roller on the roadside wires, bringing us to a stop. We were able to pick this bird up in the telescope for the group to admire. Also present was a handsome singing Black-headed Bunting, similarly using the wires and poles at the roadside, making for a fine end to the day.

Day 3

Monday 7th May

Today we travelled around to the opposite side of the lake to take our first boat trip from Kerkini Harbour, out to the drowned forest with its multitude of breeding birds.

As the boat headed out onto the placid lake surface we passed a huge flock of feeding Great Cormorants that had created a black haze of birds on the water ahead of us, bringing home just how many birds use the lake! Passing through the flock we encountered numerous Great Crested Grebes among which we picked out a couple of Black-necked Grebes that we slowly approached. Feeding over the water's surface, a small flock of Black, White-winged and Whiskered Terns patrolled to and fro. Floating serenely among this collection of birds were several Dalmatian Pelicans.

All of this had still not really prepared us for the spectacle of nesting cormorants, herons, egrets and Spoonbills within the forest. Numbers were uncountable as we passed within metres of the noisy, squabbling family life of the many residents. Cameras were on overdrive as one photographic opportunity followed another. A large roosting flock of Great White Pelicans standing alongside the many cormorants and egrets brought home the huge size of these birds, many of which had developed the rich apricot colouring of breeding plumage. The slow silent passage of the boat allowed for some unbeatable close encounters of these many exciting species.

Leaving the drowned forest behind us, we slowly circumnavigated the artificial platforms constructed for the breeding pelicans that now include healthy numbers of Great Whites as well as Dalmatian.

After this outstanding birding excursion we made our way back across the lake to the landing where, elated, we disembarked and had our lunch overlooking the sheltered harbour. A Large Whip Snake was spotted basking in the bushes nearby making for a fine finale.

For the afternoon we undertook a journey west to visit another much smaller dam that can hold an interesting array of birds. On arrival we disturbed a couple of Black and White Storks from the wet pastures surrounding the lake, making for a good start. We drove up onto the embankment where we stopped to scan the water. A couple of passing Hobbies hunting dragonflies were another fine addition. Wildfowl were initially quite distant but we drove on to get a closer view, where we were able to admire a small number of Ferruginous Ducks alongside Common Pochard, Gadwall and Northern Shoveler. We were next delighted with the arrival of a pair of handsome male Garganey that settled in front of us. Scattered about the lake were several pairs of Black-necked Grebes that we could observe through the telescope (unlike those seen on our earlier boat trip!). To complete the picture a few marsh terns were patrolling the water's surface, joined by the plunge-diving Common and Little Terns. As we began our homeward journey a final highlight was a single Tawny Pipit in the track.

Day 4

Tuesday 8th May

Today we travelled east towards the town of Sidirokastro, where we turned off to take a minor road leading to a small disused quarry surrounded by forest and high cliffs. Here we spent some time listening and watching the mix of birds, insects and flowers found here. High on the skyline a Black-eared Wheatear sang and was soon spotted. The singing Ortolan Bunting proved a little trickier to find, but was ultimately pinned down on the very summit of the cliffs. A real telescope view only! Constantly swooping about us were numerous Red-rumped

Swallows with a couple of fleeting pairs of Crag Martins also detected. A pair of Black Redstarts made rapid unobtrusive visits to a small ruined building where they were clearly nesting. A couple of notable butterflies were present, the best of which were a few Hungarian Skippers and Ilex Hairstreaks.

A short drive brought us to a riverside woodland, where we took a short walk up to an attractive couple of manmade waterfalls. The cliffs surrounding us were stunning and held a couple of Blue Rock Thrushes perched on typical skyline promontories. Arriving at the waterfalls, we spent some time admiring the flowers, caves and scenery before beginning to head back. We were then alerted by the contact note of a White-bellied Dipper that arrived and proceeded to actively forage and dive within the river alongside the track. A final highlight was the Alpine Swifts that made their rapid and dramatic entrance overhead! The flowers here weren't bad either, with several notable finds such as *Ophrys scolopax* subsp. *cornuta* and *Scutellaria albida*.

Our next destination was after taking a drive through the rocky hills and stopping at a roadside shrine. Here we picked up a number of interesting plants and birds with a singing and elusive Eastern Subalpine Warbler being the highlight. Retracing our route, we pulled off at a picnic pagoda where we stopped for lunch with a wonderful view across to some dramatic cliffs in the hope of some interesting raptors. The best we could come up with were a couple of Common Buzzards and Kestrel, but were cheered by fantastic views of a Masked Shrike singing from the top of an adjacent conifer, allowing close and prolonged observation of this smart bird.

Moving on in this action packed day, we headed north towards Bulgaria. We turned off the main road just before the border where we drove on to a riverine forest of majestic White Poplars, where we took a walk. Once more the group's diverse range of interests found us examining a range of species. The butterflies here were particularly abundant with large numbers of blues coming down to the damp soil within the track. Within the wood we managed to connect with a couple of Middle Spotted Woodpeckers high in the canopy. After a pleasant shady walk and having seen various reptiles, dragonflies, birds and plants, we made way back to the vehicle.

Having so far failed to find a Rock Nuthatch within the quarries already visited, we opted to return to Sidirokastro and check the 'reliable' site within the town. This we did and having staked out the nest, again failed to find the bird! This called for a coffee and ice cream to lift our spirits in the town square. Refreshed and at ease with our successes and failures, we made our way back to our guesthouse in preparation for another tasty meal in the village.

Day 5

Wednesday 9th May

We began our day by travelling a short distance south of the lake to visit a disused quarry near Himmaros. On the approach track, having stopped to watch a party of Bee-eaters, we were delighted to pick out a soaring Lesser Spotted Eagle close enough to be able to pick out the relevant identification features to the satisfaction of the group. After this early success we continued on to the quarry, where we disembarked and spent some time exploring the area and listening to the rich and varied birdsong emanating from all around us. Initial finds included both Woodchat and Red-backed Shrikes in a bi-species competition for territorial rights, singing Cirl Bunting and Black-eared Wheatear were picked out nearby, and a very close pass of a Short-toed Snake Eagle that drifted along the forested hillside above us. We spent more fruitful time finding insects, flowers and enjoying the birdsong. Our next stop was after driving a short distance up a dirt road into the Mavrovouni Hills on the western side of the lake. From here we continued on foot and were soon making multiple sightings and finds of interesting flora and fauna! Butterflies were much in evidence, most notably the abundant recent hatching of fresh Nettle-tree Butterflies. We came upon a mature specimen Nettle Tree *Celtis australis* by the path where there were numerous fresh adult butterflies close by. On examining the tree we could see it festooned with chrysalis and a couple of emergent adults with crumpled wings yet to be expanded. The track slowly climbed into the rising hills and we made slow and steady progress with much to hold our attention. Further raptor sightings included another Lesser Spotted Eagle carrying what looked like a snake, followed by another close Short-toed Snake Eagle (possibly wondering who had pinched his lunch!). Interesting insects included the Mammoth Wasp *Megascolia maculata* and the Spoonwing Lacewing *Nemoptera sinnuata*.

After an enjoyable morning's walk we returned to continue driving around the western shores of the lake, reaching a covered picnic pagoda where we pulled over for lunch. During our time spent here viewing over the placid surface of the lake and enjoying a pleasant cooling breeze, a number of interesting plants were found and both Peregrine Falcon and Syrian Woodpecker could be heard but not seen, unfortunately. With lunch completed, some of the group took a short walk along the road to check for flowers and birds, during which Nightingale was finally sighted (other than just hearing) and a rewarding selection of plants were found that included the orchids *Serapias vomeracea* and *Anacamptis papilionacea, Silene coronaria* (Rose Campion) and *Dianthus cruentus*.

Another move found us on the northern shore of the lake where we pulled into Mandraki Harbour to scan the marshy fringes found here. A rich multitude of aquatic birds were on show of all types. The group were amazed by the huge numbers of breeding Great Crested Grebes spread across the water's surface in the floating vegetation. Joining them were good numbers of Common Terns using a floating wooden platform provided for them to nest on. In the distance could be seen the large artificial islands and platform for the two species of pelicans to utilise, that were covered in large numbers of breeding pairs. The thin simple calls of a Penduline Tit alerted us to its presence and we were fortunate when the individual flew into a large poplar tree on the breakwater to feed above our heads, allowing everyone an excellent view in the telescope. Having spent some idyllic and relaxing time here, we moved on once more with the aim of an ice cream and a coffee to wind down. Our first expected café was unfortunately closed so we were advised by some locals to try another nearby. This proved to be a rather interesting experience, as we were served eventually by an elderly gent in a rather forlorn establishment that did have the benefit of a pleasant cool patio with several large shady Oriental Plane trees.

Having enjoyed our coffee, we moved on to begin our journey back to our guesthouse. Time still allowed one final stop next to the bridge crossing the Strimonas River that feeds the lake. A large herd of Water Buffalo on the opposite shore moved on out of sight before any good photographs could be obtained, but this failed to disappoint as a small flock of Bee-eaters were perched nearby with frequent feeding forays, allowing for some wonderful views. Another good find was a colony of Sand Martins nesting in the low earth bank of an island in the river safe from land predators.

Day 6

Thursday 10th May

As a contrast to our earlier lakeside excursions, today was spent on the high mountain slopes of Mount Vrontou. After skirting Serres, the road began the climb into the mountains with a noticeable change in the flora and scenery as we went. A brief glimpse was obtained of a Northern Goshawk sweeping over the road in front of the bus carrying prey in its talons.

The first stop was at our highest point, with a period spent walking the grassy slopes of the Lailas Ski Centre. At these higher levels the trees and birds took on a more familiar mix to home, with several woodland birds that are common in lowland Britain but only usually found here, such as Mistle Thrush, Robin, Tree Pipit, Coal Tit, Common Redstart and Lesser Whitethroat, all heard and seen. Plants also included a number of UK rarities amongst more Balkan specialities.

We next drove back somewhat lower to take a pleasant contour path that led into a spectacular mountain cirque with the mountain summits framing the view (although that was the idea, unfortunately stormy rain clouds and low mist kept the summits mostly shrouded out of sight). Once more, familiar woodland species were found with the highlights being a very elusive Firecrest and more obliging Crested Tits. Trackside plants included the localised white-flowered *Centaurea napulifera* and attractive yellow *Hypericum cerastoides* among the abundant *Cytisus hirsutus* Hairy Broom. Reaching a point in the path where it began to peter out and become more of a scramble, we opted to return and drive lower still where some open rocky pasture afforded fine views back up the valley and on down into the distance. Around us many attractive flowers were in bloom as we ate. Unfortunately as we were finishing lunch in prelude to a walk and exploration, the dark threatening rain clouds could be seen heading down towards us. We could hear the falling rain as it approached allowing just enough time to pack up and board the bus before it reached us!

With this unfortunate turn of events we were forced to return to the lowlands and back to the lake with time to spare. We used this unexpected opportunity to return to the Pumping Station where we took a walk along the broad irrigation dyke in the hope of spotting a Little Bittern. We failed in this objective but saw much else besides, including a Purple Heron and Four-lined Snake, before the rain caught up with us again bringing our day excursion to an end.

Our adventures were not at an end however; as after dinner we headed out to visit the Veronia Quarry at dusk. Arriving in good time, we took the short walk into the quarry where we waited, seeing several excellent birds in the evening light of which a Black-eared Wheatear, Blue Rock Thrush and, best of all, a fine singing Eastern Orphean Warbler were the highlights. As the light gradually faded the main object of our visit made its appearance; a Eurasian Eagle-Owl that flew across the face of the quarry to settle in front of us, allowing for some fine telescope views. It moved position a couple of times before heading off on its hunting foray in the lower farmlands. To add to this excellent haul of birds, a couple of Nightjars were picked up against the darkening sky and a loudly calling Scops Owl kept us searching the poplars near to our parked vehicle with no luck!

Day 7

Friday 11th May

We returned to the western shores of the lake and took a different farm track into the hills for a walk. Once more these hills produced a few interesting raptors with another Lesser Spotted Eagle and Booted Eagle seen. The walk led past some open meadows full of beehives and a number of dense Olive orchards. It was from these orchards that we heard a number of interesting bird songs that were difficult to locate. After much patient peering and scanning we found Common Whitethroat, Blackcap, Woodchat, Red-backed and Masked Shrikes and Black-headed Bunting. The star of the show was the large and pale form of an Olive-tree Warbler that typically remained hidden most of the time as we listened to the distinctive song, but did make a few rapid fly pasts and on two occasions perched momentarily in the open on the top of a leafless tree; a 'blink and you miss it' opportunity.

The group also gave considerable attention to the flowers and insects found as we went. Another opportune discovery from the sharp eyes of the group was a trio of Yellow-bellied Toads in a large puddle formed by a rut in the track. One of these was briefly caught to demonstrate the brightly marked belly in comparison to the dark brown warty upper side.

After a successful morning we drove on into Kerkini village and on to the boat harbour, where we had our picnic overlooking the water. Having completed our main course it seemed remiss to pass up the chance of a Water Buffalo ice cream from a stall in the car park! Whilst enjoying this local delicacy we met Nicos returning from a boat trip and whilst talking with him it was arranged for the group to have a second boat trip out onto the lake and into the drowned forest, as they had so enjoyed their first trip.

First we continued with our set itinerary by taking a drive up into the Belles Mountains and a visit to the village of Ano Poroia. Here we took a short walk through the wonderful Oriental Plane forests that clothe these mountains. Birdlife was rather quiet but the experience was well worth it. Along the route we came to a small clearing with several Spur-thighed Tortoises busy rootling among the grasses and brambles. Back at our parked vehicle we entered the adjacent café/restaurant for a pleasant coffee and chat with the proprietors about the history of their establishment and the huge engineering triumph of a water wheel alongside.

Filled with anticipation, we returned to Kerkini for a late afternoon and early evening trip. This proved a fantastic end to the tour with an abundance of fantastic birds on show on the placid waters and within the frenzy of breeding birds in the forest. Terns were well represented with all three species of marsh tern passing the boat joining the numerous Common Terns and a splendid trio of huge Caspian Terns. Within the breeding colonies of herons and cormorants we found a single pair of Cattle Egrets forming part of the pioneering advance of this species across Europe. As before, the massed throng of birds, almost in touching distance, was an unforgettable experience with innumerable photographic opportunities for the group. After a couple of hours of slowly drifting among this amazing spectacle we made our way back to the harbour and on to the guesthouse.

Day 8

Saturday 12th May

A prompt start in the morning was required to make the transfer back to Thessaloniki for our homeward flight, allowing only observations of passing birds from the vehicle windows as we sped past. Once at the airport in good time, our flight left on time taking us home with many happy memories of a successful trip.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit <u>www.naturetrek.co.uk</u> to sign up.

Species Lists

Birds (\checkmark =recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor		1	7		1		9	
2	Gadwall	Mareca strepera			2					
3	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		6	4		2		6	
4	Northern Pintail	Anas acuta							2	
5	Northern Shoveler	Spatula clypeata			10					
6	Garganey	Spatula querquedula			2					
7	Common Pochard	Aythya ferina			8					
8	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus	6	30	✓		400		✓	
9	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis			6				3	
10	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra		3	4		2		2	
11	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	3	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus		4	5					
13	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia		32	40				30	
14	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus					1			
15	Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1	20	✓		12		✓	
16	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides		20	✓		20		✓	
17	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea						1	1	
19	Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis							2	
20	Great Egret	Ardea alba		2	6				4	
21	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	2	15	✓		✓	✓	✓	
22	Great White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus		40	300		✓	✓	✓	
23	Dalmatian Pelican	Pelecanus crispus	6	40	200		✓	✓	✓	
24	Pygmy Cormorant	Microcarbo pygmeus	4	50	✓		12		30	
25	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	✓	✓	10K		✓	✓	✓	✓
26	European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus				3	1	1		
27	Short-toed Snake Eagle	Circaetus gallicus			2	1	4		2	
28	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Clanga pomarina					2		1	
29	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus		1					1	
30	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus		4	3		1		3	
31	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus			1					
32	Black Kite	Milvus migrans	1						1	
33	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus				1	1			
34	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo vulpinus		1	6	5	6	2		
35	Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis						1		
36	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus	2	6	6		3			
37	Eurasian Coot	Fulica atra		10	30		✓		2	
38	Northern Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus		1	6					
39	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		6						
40	Little Stint	Calidris minuta		4						
41	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola		15						
42	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos		1						
43	Ruff	Calidris pugnax			32					
44	Black-headed Gull	Chroicocephalus ridibundus		3	✓		2		✓	
45	Mediterranean Gull	Ichthyaetus melanocephalus		-	1				6	
46	Yellow-legged Gull	Larus michahellis	3	✓	✓	✓			✓	
47	Little Gull	Hydrocoloeus minutus	-						2	

	Common name			Мау								
		Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
48	Caspian Tern	Hydroprogne caspia							3			
49	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo		10	50		30		✓			
50	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida		2	8				6			
51	White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus		2	3				1			
52	Black Tern	Chlidonias niger		8	25				30			
53	Rock Dove	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
54	Common Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus		1		8						
55	European Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur		3	6	2	10		20			
56	Eurasian Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	✓	✓	\checkmark	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
57	Common Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus	Н	4	4	Н	4	6	1			
58	Eurasian Scops Owl	Otus scops				Н		Н				
59	Eurasian Eagle-Owl	, Bubo bubo						1				
60		Athene noctua		Н	Н	3	4	2	1			
61	European Nightjar	Caprimulgus europaeus				Ŭ		2				
62	Alpine Swift	Tachymarptis melba				4		2				
63	Common Swift	Apus apus	✓		✓	- -√				✓		
64	Pallid Swift	Apus pallidus			•	•				•		
65	European Roller	· ·		1	1					•		
66	•	Coracias garrulus Merops apiaster	1		30	2	✓	4	12			
	European Bee-eater		- 1	100				-				
67	Eurasian Hoopoe	Upupa epops		2	6	4	5	1	Н			
68	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocoptes medius				2						
69	Syrian Woodpecker	Dendrocopos syriacus				-	Н					
70	Great Spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major		1		2			1			
71	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Dryobates minor		1								
72	European Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis		1				Н				
73	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni			12							
74	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	3	3	4	4				2		
75	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo			2							
76	Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus					Н					
77	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio		2		1	1	2	4			
78	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor		2								
79	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator				1	1	1	6			
80	Masked Shrike	Lanius nubicus		2		1			1			
81	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus		3	1	2	Н	2	3			
82	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius		2	3	4	2	2	2			
83	Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
84	Western Jackdaw	Coloeus monedula	✓		2	✓	✓			✓		
85	Hooded Crow	Corvus cornix	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	~		
86	Northern Raven	Corvus corax				1	1		Н			
87	Coal Tit	Periparus ater						Н				
88	European Crested Tit	Lophophanes cristatus						2				
89	Great Tit	Parus major	3	2		4	Н	н	2			
90	Eurasian Penduline Tit	Remiz pendulinus	1	н			1	н				
91	Woodlark	Lullula arborea					•	1				
92	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata	6	4	✓		Н	· · ✓	 ✓ 			
93	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia		12			20					
93 94	Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica		1∠	✓	✓	_20 _√	✓	✓	~		
94 95	Eurasian Crag Martin	Ptyonoprogne rupestris	•	4	•	6	•	4	•	•		
	Common House Martin			4 ✓	✓	0 √	✓	4 ✓	✓	~		
96	Red-rumped Swallow	Delichon urbicum Cecropis daurica	×	✓ 8	✓ 3	× 20	✓ 10	✓ 10	× 2	v		
97												

	Common name				Мау						
		Scientific name	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
99	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus							Н		
100	Common Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita						5			
101	Wood Warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix	Н								
102	Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus	4	4	6		✓	✓	✓		
103	Eurasian Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus	2	1							
104	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Iduna pallida	2	4	1	1	3		6		
105	Olive-tree Warbler	Hippolais olivetorum							1		
106	Eurasian Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla				Н			Н		
107	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca						Н			
108	Eastern Orphean Warbler	Sylvia crassirostris						1	Н		
109	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis				1	2	Н	3		
110	Eastern Subalpine Warbler	Sylvia cantillans				1	2	1			
111	Common Firecrest	Regulus ignicapilla						Н			
112	Eurasian Nuthatch	Sitta europaea							Н		
113	Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus				1					
115	Common Blackbird	Turdus merula		Н	1	4	1		3		
116	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus						2			
117	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula				2		Н	н		
118	Common Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos	4	Н	Н	Н	✓	✓	Н		
119	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros				2					
120	Common Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus						1			
121	Blue Rock Thrush	Monticola solitarius		1		4		2			
122	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe						6			
123	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica		2		1	1	1			
124	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
125	Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis	1	1		1	✓		✓		
126	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus		1	✓		✓	✓	✓		
127	Western Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava feldegg	1	8	1			2			
128	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea				1	1				
129	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba			1	2					
130	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris			1						
131	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis						3			
132	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs		Н		4		✓	✓		
133	Red Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra						3			
134	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	5		✓		✓	✓		~	
135	Corn Bunting	Emberiza calandra		3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
136	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana				1					
137	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus		5			2	1	1	<u> </u>	
138	Black-headed Bunting	Emberiza melanocephala		1	12				3	<u> </u>	

Mammals

Eastern Hedgehog (road kill), *Erinaceus concolor* Caucasian Jackal, *Canis aureus moreoticus* Coypu, *Myocastor coypus*

Amphibians & Reptiles

Green Toad, *Bufo viridis* Greek Marsh Frog, *Rana balcanica* Red Fox, Vulpes vulpes Roe Deer, Capreolus capreolus

Yellow-bellied Toad, *Bombina variegata* Tree Frog (heard), *Hyla arborea* Hermann's Tortoise, *Tustudo hermanni* European Pond Terrapin, *Emys orbiculris* Kotschy's Gecko, *Cyrtodactylus kotschyi* Common Green Lizard, *Lacerta viridis* Erhard's Wall Lizard, *Podacris erhardii* Large Whip Snake, *Coluber caspius* Grass Snake, *Natrix natrix*

Butterflies

Eastern Festoon, Zerynthia cerisyi Black-veined White, Aporia crataegi Southern Small White, Artogeia mannii Small White, Artogeia rapae Eastern Bath White, Pontia edusa Orange Tip, Anthocharis cardamines Berger's Clouded Yellow, Colias alfacariensis Green Haistreak, Callophrys rubi Small Copper, Lycaena phlaeas Holly Blue, Celastrina argiolus Silver-studded Blue, Plebejus argus Amanda's Blue, Agrodiaetus amanda Common Blue, Polyommatus icarus Southern White Admiral, Limenitis reducta Small Tortoiseshell, Aglais urticae Painted Lady, Vanessa cardui Glanville Fritillary, Melitaea cinxia Eastern Knapweed Fritillary, Melitaea ornata Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Melitaea trivia Queen of Spain Fritillary, Issoria lathonia Small Heath, Coenonympha pamphilus Wall Brown, Lasiommata megera Lattice Brown, Kirinia roxelana Oberthur's Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus armoricanus Orbed Red-underwing/Hungarian Skipper, Spialia orbifer Essex Skipper, Thymelicus lineola

Dragonflies & Damselflies

Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo ssp. festiva* Common Bluetail, *Ishnura elegans* Green-eyed Hawker, *Aeshna isosceles* Eastern Spectre, *Caliaeshna microstigma* Broad Scarlet, *Crocothemis erythraea* White-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum albistylum* Ruddy Darter, *Sympetrum sanguineum* Spur-thighed Tortoise, *Tustudo graeca* Balkan Terrapin, *Mauremys rivulata* Balkan Green Lizard, *Lacerta trilineata* European Glass Lizard, *Ophisaurus apodus* Balkan Wall Lizard, *Podacris taurica* Four-lined Snake, *Elaphe quartuorlineata* Dice Snake, *Natrix tesselata*

Scarce Swallowtail, Iphiclides podalirius Large White, Pieris brassicae Mountain Small White, Artogeia ergane Green-veined White, Artogeia napi Eastern Dappled White, Euchloe ausonia Clouded Yellow. Colias crocea Eastern Wood White, Leptidea duponcheli Ilex Hairstreak, Satyrium ilicis Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Leptotes pirithous Iolas Blue, Iolana iolas Brown Argus, Arica agrestis Chapman's Blue, Agrodiaetus thersites Nettle-tree Butterfly, Libythea celtis Large Tortoiseshell, Nymphalis polychloros Red Admiral, Vanessa atalanta Comma Butterfly, Polygonia c-album Heath Fritillary, Melitaea athalia Spotted Fritillary, Melitaea didyma Cardinal, Argynnis pandora Speckled Wood, Pararge aegeria Meadow Brown, Maniola jurtina Northern Wall Brown, Lasiommata petropolitana Grizzled Skipper, Pyrgus malvae Olive Skipper, Pyrgus serratulae Dingy Skipper, Erynnis tages Small Skipper, Thymelicus sylvestris

Banded Demoiselle, *Calopteryx splendens* Blue Featherleg, *Platycnemis pennipes* Hairy Hawker, *Brachytron pratense* Balkan Emerald, *Somatochlora meridionalis* Blue Chaser, *Libellula fulva* Southern Skimmer, *Orthetrum brunneum*

Plants

Scientific Name

PTERIDOPHYTES

Equisetaceae Equisetum arvense Equisetum telmateia

Aspleniaceae Asplenium onopteris Asplenium trichomanes Asplenium ceterach

Hypolepidaceae Pteridium aquilinum

Dryopteridaceae Dryopteris filix-mas Polystichum setiferum

Polypodiaceae Polypodium vulgare agg

Salviniaceae Salvinia natans

Woodsiaceae Athyrium filix-femina Cystopteris fragilis

PINOPSIDA

Cupressaceae Cupressus sempervirens Juniperus communis Juniperus oxycedrus subsp. oxycedrus

MAGNOLIOPSIDA

Ephedraceae

Ephedra foeminea

Pinaceae Abies x borisii-regis Pinus nigra Pinus sylvestris

Common Name

FERNS & ALLIES

Horsetail Family Field Horsetail Great Horsetail

Spleenwort Family

Irish Spleenwort Maidenhair Spleenwort Rustyback

Bracken Family Bracken

Buckler Fern Family Male Fern Soft Shield Fern

Polypody Family Common Polypody

Floating Fern

Lady Fern Family Lady Fern Brittle Bladder Fern

CONIFERS

Juniper Family Italian Cypress Common Juniper Prickly Juniper

Joint Pine Family Joint Pine

Pine Family

Black Pine Scots Pine

FLOWERING PLANTS

Magnoliidae

Aceraceae

Acer campestre Acer monspessulanum Acer platanoides Maple Family Field Maple Montpelier Maple Norway Maple

Anarcardiaceae

Cotinus coggyria Pistacia terebinthus

Apiaceae

Aegopodium podagraria Anthriscus caucalis Anthriscus cerefolium Chaerophyllum temulum Conium maculatum Daucus carota subsp. maximus Eryngium campestre Ferulago sylvatica Geocaryum capillifolium Heracleum sphondylium Myrrhoides nodosa Oenanthe aquatica Orlaya daucoides Torilis arvensis subsp. purpurea Torilis japonica Torilis nodosa Torilis ucranica

Aquifoliaceae Ilex aquifolium

Aralaceae Hedera helix

Aristolochiaceae Aristolochia clematitis

Asclepiadacae

Cionura erecta Periploca graeca Vincetoxicum hirundinaria

Asteraceae

Achillea clypeolata Achillea crithmifolia Bellis perennis Carduus candicans Carduus nutans subsp. leiophyllus Carthamus lanatus Centaurea affinis Centaurea calcitrapa Centaurea graeca Centaurea napulifera Chrondrilla juncea Cichorum intybus Cirsium arvense Cirsium vulgare Crupina vulgaris

Common Name

Sumach Family

Smoke-tree Turpentine Tree

Carrot Family

Ground Elder Bur Chervil a Chervil Rough Chervil Hemlock a Wild Carrot Field Eryngo a Ferulago

Hogweed

Fine-leaved Water Dropwort an Orlaya a Spreading Hedge Parsley Upright Hedge Parsley Knotted Hedge Parsley

Holly Family

Holly

Ivy Family Ivy

Birthwort Family Common Birthwort

Milkweed Family

Silk-vine Swallow-wort

Daisy Family

a Milfoil a Milfoil Daisy Family

Saffron Thistle a Knapweed Star Thistle

a Knapweed Chrondrilla Chicory Creeping Thistle Spear Thistle False Saw-wort

Eupatorium cannabinum Filago vulgaris Onopordum illyricum Picnomon acarna Ptilostemon afer Rhagadiolus stellatus Senecio nemorensis Senecio vernalis Silybum marianum Taraxacum officinale Tragopogon porrifolius Tragopogon pratensis Tephroseris integrifolia Xanthium strumarium

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa Carpinus betulus Corylus avellana Ostrya carpinifolia

Boraginaceae

Anchusa officinalis Cynoglossum creticum Cynoglossum velebeticum Echium arenarium Echium italicum Echium plantagineum Myosotis sylvatica Onosma heterophylla Symphytum bulbosum Symphytum ottomanum

Brassicaceae

Alliaria petiolata Alyssum minus Arabis turrita Aurinia saxatile Barbarea sicula Cardamine bulbifera Cardamine graeca Cardamine hirsuta Erysimum cuspidatum Erysimum diffusum Erysimum drenowski Rorippa amphibia Rorippa nasturtium-aquticum Rorippa sylvestris Sinapis alba Sinapis arvensis Sisymbrium irio Sisymbrium officinale Sisymbrium orientale

Common Name

Hemp Agrimony Common Cudweed Illyrian Scotch Thistle Picnomon

Star Hawkbit a Ragwort Spring Groudsel Milk Thistle Dandelion Salsify Goat's-beard

Rough Cocklebur

Birch Family

Alder Hornbeam Hazel Hop Hornbeam

Borage Family

Alkanet Blue Hound's-tomgue a Hound's-tongue

Pale Bugloss Purple Viper's Bugloss Wood Forget-me-not Golden Drops Bulbous Comfrey a Comfrey

Cabbage Family

Garlic Mustard an Alyssum Towercress Basket of Gold a Wintercess Coral-root Bitter-cress

Hairy Bitter-cress a Treacle Mustard a Treacle Mustard a Treacle Mustard Great Yellow-cress Watercress Creeping Yellow-cress White Mustard Charlock London Rocket Hedge Mustard Eastern Rocket

Campanulaceae

Campanula bononiensis Campanula lingulata Campanula ramosissima Campanula sparsa Campanula spathulata Legousia speculum-veneris

Cannabaceae

Humulus lupulus

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera etrusca Lonicera implexa Sambucus ebulus Sambucus nigra

Caryophyllaceae

Agrostemma githago Dianthus carthusianorum Dianthus cruentus Dianthus deltoides Dianthus pretraeus subsp. orbelicus Moehringia trinervia Petrorhagia dubia Petrorhagia glumacea Petrorhagia prolifera Silene compacta Silene coronaria Silene latifolia Silene subconica Silene vulgaris

Celastracae Euonymous europaeus

Cistaceae Cistus creticus

Convolvulaceae Convolvulus arvensis Convolvulus cantabrica

Crassulaceae Sedum hispanicum Umbilicus rupestris

Dipsacaceae Knautia ambigua Knautia arvensis Lomelosia argentea

Common Name

Bellflower Family

Large Venus's Looking-glass

Hop Family Hop

Honeysuckle Family

Etruscan Honeysuckle

Dwarf Elder Elderberry

Pink Family

Corncockle Carthusian Pink

Maiden Pink

Three-nerved Sandwort

Proliferous Pink

Sand Catchfly Rose Campion White Campion

Bladder Campion

Spindle Family Spindle Tree

Rock-rose Family

Bindweed Family Field Bindweed

Stonecrop Family

Navelwort

Teasel Family

Field Scabious

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia amygdaloides Eurphorbia helioscopia Euphorbia myrsinites Euphorbia seguieriana

Fabaceae

Amorpha fruticosa Astragalus glycyphyllos Astragalus onobrychis Bituminaria bituminosa Calicotome villosa Colutea arborescens Cytisus hirsutus Hippocrepis emerus Lotus corniculatus Medicago arabica Medicago lupulina Medicago minima Onobrychis aequidentata Onobrychis caput-galli Onobrychis degenii Onobrychis gracilis Ornithopus compressus Robinia pseudacacia Spartium junceum Trifolium alpestre Trifolium angustifolium Trifolium arvense Trifolium campestre Trifolium hirtum Trifolium repens Trifolium striatum Vicia hirsuta Vicia lathyroides Vicia tenuifolia Vicia tetrasperma Vicia villosa

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica Quercus cerris Quercus coccifera Quercus frainetto Quercus petraea Quercus pubescens

Fumariaceae

Fumaria capreolata Fumaria parviflora

Geraniaceae Erodium cicutarium

Common Name

Spurge Family

Wood Spurge Sun Spurge Broad-leaved Glaucous Spurge

Pea Family

Desert False Indigo Wild Liquorice Sainfoin Milk-vetch Pitch Trefoil Hairy Thorny Broom Bladder Senna Hairy Broom False Senna Bird's-foot Trefoil Spotted Medick Black Medick Black Medick Bur Medick a Sainfoin Cockscomb Sainfoin

a Sainfoin Compressed Bird's-foot **False Acacia** Spanish Broom Mountain Zig-zag Clover Narrow-leaved Clover Hare's-foot Clover Hop Trefoil Hairy Trefoil White Clover Soft Clover Hairy Tare Spring Vetch **Fine-leaved Vetch** Smooth Tare Fodder vetch

Beech Family

Beech Turkey Oak Kermes Oak Hungarian Oak Sessile Oak Downy Oak

Fumitory Family White Ramping Fumitory

Geranium family Common Stork's-bill

Erodium malacoides Geranium lucidum Geranium robertianum Geranium rotundifolium Geranium sanguineum

Hypericaceae Hypericum cerastoides

Juglandaceae Juglans regia

Lamiaceae

Lamium amplexicaule Lamium maculatum Marrubium peregrinum Nepeta nuda Origanum vulgare Prunella vulgaris Salvia viridis Scutellaria albida Scutellaria columnae Stachys cassia Stachys cretica Stachys plumosa Thymus degenii Thymus longicaulis

Linaceae Linum nodiflorum Linum tenuifolium

Lythraceae Trapa natans

Malvaceae Malva sylvestris

Menyanthaceae Nymphoides peltata

Moraceae Ficus carica Morus alba Morus nigra

Nymphaeaceae Nymphaea alba

Oleaceae Fraxinus ornus Jasminum fruticans Ligustrum vulgare

Common Name

Mallow-leaved Stork's-bill Shining Crane's-bill Herb Robert Round-leaved Crane's-bill Bloody Crane's-bill

St. John's- Wort Family

Walnut Family

Walnut

Dead-nettle Family

Henbit Spotted Dead-nettle Branched Horehound Hairless Catmint Marjoram Selfheal Red-topped Sage

Large Skullcap

Mediterranean Woundwort

- -
- Flax Family

Loosestrife Family Water Chestnut

Mallow family Common Mallow

Bogbean family Fringed Water-lily

Mulberry Family Fig White Mulberry Common Mulberry

Water-lily Family White Water-lily

Olive Family Flowering Ash Wild Jasmine Privet

Phillyrea latifolia

Onagraceae Epilobium angustifolium Epilobium hirsutum

Orobanchaceae Parentucellia latifolia Phelipanche mutelii

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus Hypercoum imberbe Papaver rhoeas

Plantaginaceae

Digitalis lanata Linaria genistifolia Plantago coronopus Plantago lagopus Plantago lanceolata Plantago major Veronica chamaedrys Veronica hederifolia

Platanaceae Platanus orientalis

Polygonaceae

Persicaria amphibia Persicaria maculosa Polygonum aviculare Rumex acetosella Rumex conglomeratus Rumex crispus Rumex palustris Rumex sanguineus

Primulaceae Primula veris

Ranunculaceae

Clematis flammula Clematis vitalba Nigella damascena Ranunculus chius Ranunculus muricatus Ranunculus pencillatus Ranunculus repens Ranunculus sardous Ranunculus sceleratus

Common Name

Phillyrea

Willow-herb Family Rosebay Willow-herb Great Willow-herb

Broomrape Family

Poppy Family Greater Celandine

Common Poppy

Plantain Family Grecian Foxglove

Buck's-horn Plantain Hare's-tail Plantain Ribwort Plantain Greater Plantain Germander Speedwell Ivy-leaved Speedwell

Plane Tree Family Oriental Plane

Knotweed Family

Amphibious Bistort Redshank Knotgrass Sheep's Sorrel Clustered Dock Curled Dock Marsh Dock Wood Dock

Primrose Family Cowslip

Buttercup Family

Fragrant Clematis Traveller's Joy Love-in-a-Mist

Rough-fruited Buttercup Stream Water-crowfoot Creeping Buttercup Hairy Buttercup Celery-leaved Buttercup

Resedaceae Reseda lutea

Rhamnaceae Paliuris spina-christi

Roseaceae

Agrimonia eupatoria Crataegus monogyna Fragaria vesca Geum urbanum Potentilla argentea Potentilla recta Potentilla reptans Prunus avium Pyrus amygdaliformis Pyrus pyraster Rosa arvensis Rosa canina Rubus fruticosa agg. Sanguisorba minor

Rutaceae Haplophyllum balcanicum

Salicaceae

Populus alba Populus nigra Populus tremula Salix alba Salix caprea Salix cinerea Salix fragilis Salix purpurea Salix triandra

Scrophulariaceae

Verbascum graecum Verbascum orientale Verbascum sinuatum Verbascum xanthophoeniceum

Solanaceae Solanum elaeagnifolium

Tamaricaceae Tamarix parviflora Tamarix smyrnensis

Tiliaceae Tilia tomentosa

Common Name

Mignonette Family Wild Mignonette

Buckthorn Family Christ's Thorn

Rose Family

Agrimony Hawthorn Wild Strawberry Herb Bennet Hoary Cinquefoil Sulphur Cinquefoil Creeping Cinquefoil Wild Cherry Almond-leaved Pear Wild Pear Field Rose Dog Rose Bramble Salad Burnet

Rue Family

Willow Family

White Poplar Black Poplar Aspen White Willow Goat Willow Grey Willow Crack Willow Purple Willow Almond Willow

Figwort Family

a Mullein

a Mullein

Nightshade Family

-

Tamarisk Family

Lime Tree Family Silver Lime

Ulmaceae Celtis australis Ulmus minor Ulmus procera

Urticaceae Parietaria officinalis Urtica dioica Urtica pilulifera

Violaceae Viola arvensis Viola odorata Viola reichenbachiana

Vitaceae Vitis vinifera subsp. sylvestris

Liliidae

Asparagaceae Asparagus acutifolius Leopoldia comosa Muscari armeniacum Ornithogalum montanum

Araceae Arum maculatum Dracunculus vulgaris

Butomaceae Butomus umbellatus

Colchicaceae Colchicum autumnale

Dioscoreaceae Dioscorea(Tamus) communis

Iridaceae Gladiolus communis Iris pseudacorus

Liliaceae Fritillaria pontica

Orchidaceae

Anacamptis(Orchis) morio Anacamptis(Orchis) papilionacea Anacamptis pyramidalis Dactylorhiza saccifera Limodorum trabutianum Neottia ovata

Common Name

Elm Family Nettle Tree Small-leaved Elm English Elm

Nettle Family Large Pellitory of the Wall Common Nettle Roman Nettle

Violet Family

Sweet Vioolet Early Dog Violet

Grape-vine Family Grape-vine

Asparagus Family Prickly Asparagus Tassel Hyacinth

Arum family Lords and Ladies Dragon Arum

Flowering Rush family Flowering Rush

Autumn Crocus

Yam Family Black Bryony

Iris family a Gladiolus Yellow Flag

Lily Family

Orchid Family

Green-winged Orchid Pink Butterfly Orchid Pyramidal Orchid

a Limadore Twayblade

Ophrys scolopax subsp. cornuta Serapias vomeracea

Xanthorrhoeaceae Asphodeline liburnica Asphodelus ramosus

Common Name

Woodcock Orchid Long-lipped Serapias/Tongue Orchid

a Yellow Asphodel an Asphodel

Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at <u>www.facebook.com</u> is quick, free and easy. The <u>Naturetrek Facebook page</u> is now live; do please pay us a visit!