Romania's Danube Delta & Carpathian Mountains

Naturetrek Tour Report

7-16 May 2011





Glanville Fritillaries





Zarnesti Gorge



Spur-thighed Tortoise

Images & report compiled by Geoff Carr



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Day 1

Saturday 7th May

Rain and snow, 2 deg C

Everyone met at Heathrow before boarding the BA flight to Bucharest at 1120. A smooth 3 hour flight soon passed and we were approaching 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 Carpathians. On our drive out of Bucharest, through farmland, we saw 100+ White Storks resting from the weather in the fields, and probably migrating birds, Ferruginous Duck, Kestrel and Whiskered Tern. As we neared Sinaia, the landscape changed to rolling, deciduous forest of Hornbeam, Beech and Oak. We stopped for coffee near Sinaia and by now it was raining with some sleet. From here we continued north and the sleet changed to snow, very unusual at this time of year, even in the mountains, and strange seeing the forests in leaf but covered in snow. We travelled on and descended to the Brasov Plain and the weather now improved slightly and we had a couple of Lesser Spotted Eagles resting from the weather on the ground. We 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 8th May

Snow, sleet and sunshine, 8 deg C

Breakfast at 0800 and after making our own picnic lunches from an array of cheeses, meat and salad we departed soon after in the mini-bus 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 light snow falling but watching Dipper and Grey Wagtail on the stream and a number of Black Redstart sheltering from the weather. Two Alpine Swifts 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 Florin heard the call of Wallcreeper and shortly after we had two males chasing each other about. They were quite high up on the cliffs but gave good views when they landed and hopped up the rocks. We had a picnic lunch while watching towards last year's Wallcreeper nest site but nothing appeared. On the descent down the gorge we had some Chamois, a Red Squirrel, Peregrine, Marsh Tit and Pied Flycatcher.

Back at the mini-bus we then drove around to some high pastures to seek other bird species and flowers. The weather had improved now and was part sunny but still with a cold wind. Here there were lots of Black Redstarts, Whinchat, Black Woodpecker, Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Long-tailed Tit (cordata, with the white head). While walking up and along the meadows we had the unusual sight of a Red Fox being chased by two Roe Deer for quite a distance until the fox went into a thicket area. On the meadows we had lots of Alpine Snowbell, Cowslip and Oxlip in flower. We drove back to the Elena Hotel for hot showers to warm up and enjoyed an excellent evening dinner.

Day 3 Monday 9th May

Rain and sunshine, 13 deg 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. En route we drove into the next valley to get photos of Bran Castle (Dracula's Castle) and while here we had a brief Nutcracker, a couple of Nuthatch, Marsh Tit and Alpine Swift.

We continued from here to the Stramba Valley and arrived there at 1030 with the weather improving and slightly warmer. 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 the length of the valley and then visiting the bear hide in the upper spruce forest.

On the first part of the walk through the meadows we had Golden Oriole, Cuckoo, Hawfinch, Woodlark and Tree Pipit for starters. As the sun came out it brought up the raptors and we had Lesser Spotted Eagle, Goshawk, Marsh Harrier, Buzzard and Honey Buzzard. We had lunch on a bridge over the river and here watched Black Stork soaring and Wood White and Scarce Swallowtail butterflies drifting past.

After lunch we walked deeper into the valley and the start of the Beech/Spruce woodland. Here we had Grey Headed Woodpecker, Alpine Swift overhead, Collared Flycatcher, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Brimstone and Dark Green Fritillary butterflies. Orange-bellied Toads were in pools by the path and Florin caught an individual for close inspection.

At 1800 we had a picnic snack and then were driven along another track in the mini bus 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 came to the bait followed by two large cubs. They were nervous at first and listening for other bears approaching. There then followed a sequence where a number 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 5 brown Bear of various ages visiting the bait. On the drive back down the Stramba Valley we had sightings of Ural Owl and Tawny Owl in the dark and beside the track. Back at the Elena Hotel for a meal at 2200 after a really eventful day!

Day 4 Tuesday 10th May

Sunny with some showers, 23 deg C

We were up at 0700, breakfast at 0730 and away on the road out of the Carpathian's by 0830 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 with the weather improving further and Buzzards soaring over the forests. Then we drove east through an undulating landscape where cereals, sunflowers and grapes were growing. During the morning drive and at the picnic lunch stop we had a couple of thunderstorms but still lots of birds. We had White Stork, Black Stork, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Steppe Buzzard, Honey Buzzard, Hobby, 10+ Red-footed Falcon, Long-eared Owl with one bird on a nest, Nightingale, Spotted Flycatcher, Pied Flycatcher and lots of Corn Bunting. From here we drove east to a lake where we were fortunate to see Blacknecked Grebe, Ferruginous Duck, Avocet, Montagu's Harrier, 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 fields. As we neared Tulcea on the Danube we stopped at a lake with rolling steppe as a backdrop. Here we found Pygmy Cormorant, Great White Egret, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis, Nightingale, Bee-eater, Roller and Whiskered Tern. Towards Tulcea a few Calandra Larks and Corn Buntings were evident on the rolling Steppe habitat and surprisingly a Hen Harrier passed over. 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 Ibis Tours houseboat, which was to be home for the next few days. As the sun was setting over Tulcea we had a welcome drink of cherry liqueur and later an excellent dinner with wine.

Day 5

Wednesday 11th May

Sunny and showers, 15 deg C

It started a cool but sunny day in Tulcea with the Danube flowing strongly out towards the Delta and 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 lower than last year which would be a problem for some breeding water-birds. We cruised along a channel flanked by willows giving views into small lake areas and into the Willow Carr woodland. We had brilliant, close views of many species such as Pygmy Cormorant, Night Heron, Squacco Heron, 100's of White Pelican, Dalmatian Pelican, Great White Egret, White-tailed Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Hobby, Kingfisher, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Turtle Dove, Golden Oriole, Redstart, Roller and lots of Blackcaps. We met up with the houseboat on the main Sulina channel at Maliuc for lunch.

After an excellent three course lunch we went a short walk around the old park at Maliuc where we had Greyheaded Woodpecker, Redstart, Chiffchaff, Long-tailed Tit (white-headed race) and Wood 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 Marsh Harriers hunting, Thrush Nightingale singing beside the boat and Marsh Frogs calling. As the light faded it was a feeling of being in a special place and in fact one of the world's heritage sites.

Day 6

Thursday 12th May

Sunny and some cloud, 18 deg C

We awoke to a clear, sunny day with Cuckoos calling, Golden Oriole singing and the same Thrush Nightingale singing beside the boat. After breakfast we boarded the small boat and cruised along the Mugearu Channel to the village of Letea some 5km away. Along the channel there were Red-footed Falcon, Great Reed Warbler, Savi's Warblers reeling, Penduline Tit and Bearded Tit. Leta 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 lots of Purple Heron, Wood Sandpiper, and a few Spotted Flycatcher and then into an ancient woodland habitat consisting of old Oaks, Ash and Aspen. In the woodland we had excellent views of nesting Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and singing Thrush Nightingale and Golden Oriole.

We walked back through 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 population of Tree Sparrows in the village, a few Hoopoes and a number of migrant Redstarts. As we left Letea village a male Montagu's Harrier flew right across the front of the small boat giving everyone a really close view.

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, Red-necked Grebe, White-tailed Eagle, 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 13th May

Sunny, 25 deg C

After breakfast the morning's trip took us north on the Eracle Channel, which leads to the Stipoc Channel and here we had views of the colonies of Night Heron, Pygmy Cormorant and Squacco Heron. It was very peaceful with no-one else around in this vast reed and willow habitat, which teems with wildlife.

Further on we had excellent views of Red-necked Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Ferruginous Duck, White-winged Tern, Black Tern, Great Reed Warbler and Savi's Warblers. Overhead were lines of White Pelican and occasional Hobby hunting for dragonflies. We cruised to a pasture area alongside the channel and had lots of wader, mainly Ruff and Wood Sandpiper but also Red-backed Shrike and Lesser Grey Shrike.

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 White-tailed Eagle, Roller, Hobby, Red-footed Falcon, Cuckoo, Golden Oriole, Kingfisher and Stock Dove. We reached Tulcea by late afternoon and had a short walk around the harbour then back for evening dinner and overnight accommodation on the houseboat. It was a clear, warm evening at 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 best wilderness sites.

Day 8

Saturday 14th May

Sunny, 26 deg C

Breakfast was at 0730 and it was to be a clear, sunny day. We said our goodbye's to the houseboat staff and departed in the coach through Tulcea and to the west. Our first stop was at an old quarry where we had Northern Wheatear on the nearby pasture and Bee-eater flying around catching insects. On the entrance to the quarry we had Long-legged Buzzard and the quarry itself had a couple of pair of Pied Wheatear which were chasing about with the Northern Wheatear. We were lucky to have a male Pallid Harrier pass over the quarry on its way north.

We then drove to Telita Ogurlui, a habitat of wood pasture consisting of Oak, Hornbeam and Wild Pear. Here we also found Lesser Spotted Eagle, Long-legged Buzzard, 'Steppe' Buzzard, Honey Buzzard, Levant Sparrowhawk, Woodlark, Red-backed Shrike, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Red-rumped Swallow, Barred Warbler, Ortolan Bunting and an area with red Peonies just coming into flower. In the same area we found at least 3 Spur-thighed Tortoises. As we had our picnic lunch back at the coach we had a Woodchat Shrike in a small tree nearby with 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 30 pair of breeding Isabelline Wheatear which has increased dramatically since they were first discovered there in 2000. Here there were lots of Susliks - a type of ground squirrel, found on the "steppe" areas of Romania and up into the Ukraine. The Isabeline Wheatears use the burrows of the Susliks to nest in. A steep rock formation produced a pair of Rock Thrushes, a pair of Pied Wheatears and a Black-eared Wheatear with a small number of Long-legged Buzzards hanging in the updraught. Further on we had a pair of Stone Curlews, Tawny Pipit and Woodchat Shrike. With everyone satisfied with the eventful day and hungry we departed to our Ibis guest house in Tulcea.

Day 9

Sunday 15th May

Sunny, 28 deg C

After breakfast we departed in the mini-bus to the "steppe" to the south of Tulcea and then the Black Sea coast.

We first visited a large rounded hill which was a nature reserve due to the plant communities and other wildlife. Here we had Montagu's Harrier, Calandra Lark, Short-toed Lark, Whinchat and Isabaline Wheatear. 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, Pyramidal Orchid, Monkey Orchid and many more. Ortolan Buntings were singing all around and occasional Honey Buzzard and Levant Sparrowhawk 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 were local people were harvesting reeds for thatching. Highlights here were 7 Pallas Gull, 12 Broad-billed Sandpiper, a few Little Gull, Mediterranean Gull, Caspian Tern and lots of Ruff, Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint. Further on in the wet areas near Histria we had excellent sightings of 3 Paddyfield Warblers singing high in the reeds, Marsh Harrier, Black-winged Stilt, Avocet, Collared Pratincole, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint and Ruff in large numbers.

After lunch we drove on 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 near Vadu watching Sandwich Tern and Yelkouan Shearwater passing by. There had obviously been a big migration on the previous day, or in the night, as most bushes had lots of birds. These were mainly Spotted Flycatchers but we also had Icterine Warbler, Barred Warbler, Red-backed Shrike, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Pied Flycatcher. Also in the bushes we found a Long-eared Owl on a nest with at least one young. From here we drove back to Tulcea and the Ibis Guest house where we had our evening dinner.

Day 10

Monday 16th May

Sunny, 32 deg 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 202 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, the mini-bus driver Mitica and everyone who participated in the success of the tour.

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Species Lists

Birds (h = heard only)

			Мау										
	Scientific name	Common name	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1	Black-necked Grebe	Podiceps nigricollis				1			8				
2	Great Crested Grebe	Podiceps cristatus				4	200	30	50		2		
3	Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena					30		50				
4	Yelkouan Shearwater	Puffinus yelkouan									60		
5	White Pelican	Pelecanus onocrotalus					1000s	200	1000s	100s	30		
6	Dalmatian Pelican	Pelecanus philippensis					8	5	15	4	1		
7	Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo				2	100s	100s	100s		50		
8	Pygmy Cormorant	Phalacrocorax pygmeus				2	100s	100s	100s			4	
9	Bittern	Botaurus stellaris									1		
10	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides				1	20	6	100		1		
11	Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax					30	100	75	1	2		
12	Great White Egret	Egretta alba				1	20	20	6	2	8	2	
13	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta				8	100	10	20	10	15		
14	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea			4	6	20	8	15		8		
15	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea				2	5	27	8		10		
16	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia	100	1	7	50	20	1	25	50	20	30	
17	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra			2	1		2	2	3			
18	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus				15	40	20	30				
19	Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia					20		10		8		
20	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor				20	50		50	100s	100		
21	Greylag Goose	Anser anser				5	100		70		100		
22	Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna				15			3		100		
23	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea									1		
24	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos	2		1	10	30	20	20	10	20		
25	Pintail	Anas acuta					2						
26	Gadwall	Anas strepera					20	10	20		20		
27	Shoveler	Anas clypeata				6					3		
28	Garganey	Anas querquedula					2	5	1		2		
29	Red-crested Pochard	Netta rufina									2		
30	Tufted Duck	Aythya fuligula				1			2				
31	Pochard	Aythya ferina				20	20	20	30		20		
32	Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca	2			4	8	30	15		2		
33	Goosander	Mergus merganser						42	1				
34	White-tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla					6		7				
35	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Aquila pomarina	2		3	2			1	2			
36	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus								1			
37	Booted Eagle	Hieraaetus pennatus								1	1	1	
38	Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus			1	10	20	10	50	10	50	10	
39	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus				1		1	1	1	1		
40	Pallid Harrier	Circus macrourus				•				1			
41	Hen Harrier	Circus cyaneus				1				· ·			
 42	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus				2				10		<u> </u>	

								Мау					
	Scientific name	Common name	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
43	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo	1	15	6	10	4	2	2	20	4	5	
44	Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus				6			1	20			
45	Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus			1		1						
46	Goshawk	Accipiter gentillis			2								
47	Levant Sparrowhawk	Accipiter brevipes					1			3	4		
48	Hobby	Falco subbuteo				3	6	10	20	6		3	
49	Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	1	4	1	6		1	2	2	6	2	
50	Lesser Kestrel	Falco naumanni									5		
51	Red-footed Falcon	Falco verspertinus				10	50	6	30	8	10	2	
52	Peregrine	Falco peregrinus		1						1			
53	Grey Partridge	Perdix perdix									1		
54	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus	2		1	2	4	2	1	2	3		
55	Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus				2	10	6	5				
56	Coot	Fulica atra				15	50	20	30	4			
57	Oystercatcher	Haematopus ostralegus					1		·				
58	Black-winged Stilt	Himantopus himantopus				2		2	4		20		
59	Avocet	Recurvirostra avosetta				2					20		
60	Stone Curlew	Burhinus oedicnemus								2			
61	Collared Pratincole	Glareola pratincola									100		
62	Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula									10		
63	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius				1					5		
64	Kentish Plover	Charadrius alexandrinus									4		
65	Grey Plover	Pluvialis squatarola									5		
66	Lapwing	Vanellus vanellus				10	15	20	10	1	20	15	
67	Sanderling	Calidris alba									10		
68	Dunlin	Calidris alpina									30		
69	Curlew Sandpiper	Calidris ferruginea									100s		
70	Broad-billed Sandpiper	Limicola falcinellus									12		
71	Little Stint	Calidris minuta									100s		
72	Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola					20	6	10		4		
73	Common Sandpiper	Actitis hypoleucos				1	2	2	2		2		
74	Redshank	Tringa totanus					_	_	_		5		
75	Spotted Redshank	Tringa erythropus					8				10		
76	Greenshank	Tringa nebularia					10		1		1		
77	Black-tailed Godwit	Limosa limosa					10		'		4		
78	Curlew	Numenius arquata									1		
79	Ruff	Philomachus pugnax							30		50		
80	Black-headed Gull	Larus ridibundus				100	100		5	10	10		
81	Mediterranean Gull	Larus melanocephalus				100	1.00			.5	3		
82	Caspian Gull	Larus cachinnans				20	50	20	20	10	20		
83	Lesser Black- backed Gull	Larus fuscus	1				00	20		10	20		
84	Great Black-backed Gull	Larus marinus	<u>'</u>				1						
85	Pallas's Gull	Larus ichthyaetus					'				7		
86	Little Tern	Sterna albifrons		+							20		
87	Sandwich Tern	Sterna amulicons Sterna sandvicensis									20		
88	Common Tern	Sterna hirundo	2			1	50	30	30	6	100s		

		Common name						May						
	Scientific name		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
89	Caspian Tern	Sterna caspia									1			
90	Black Tern	Chlidonias niger					100s	6	6		5			
91	White-winged Black Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus					100s		1					
92	Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybridus	1			10	100s	10	100s	20	2			
93	Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	Columba livia	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
94	Stock Dove	Columba oenas				1	5							
95	Wood Pigeon	Columba palumbus			2		25	2	10					
96	Collared Dove	Streptopelia decaocto	20	20	20	100	10	10	10	40	50	20		
97	Turtle Dove	Streptopelia turtur			1	2	10	2	1	3				
98	Cuckoo	Cuculus canorus			6	6	20	15	10	10	2			
99	Long-eared Owl	Asio otus				1					1			
100	Tawny Owl	Strix aluco			1									
101	Ural Owl	Strix uralensis			1									
102	Little Owl	Athene noctua								1				
103	Alpine Swift	Apus melba		2	4									
104	Swift	Apus apus			20	30	100s	100	20	50	10	10		
105	Kingfisher	Alcedo atthis					18	3						
106	Hoopoe	Upupa epops					2	1	2	10	10			
107	Bee-eater	Merops apiaster				12	7	1		60	100			
108	Roller	Coracias garrulus				1	10	4	6	10	2			
109	Black Woodpecker	Dryocopus martius		2				1						
110	Grey-headed Woodpecker	Picus canus			3		5	2	2	1	1			
111	Green Woodpecker	Picus viridis		1			1			1				
112	Syrian Woodpecker	Dendrocopos syriacus					1			1h	1h			
113	Great-spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos major			2	1	1	2	1h					
114	Middle-spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos medius								1				
115	Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	Dendrocopos minor						2						
116	Skylark	Alauda arvensis			1	10				3	3			
117	Crested Lark	Galerida cristata									5			
118	Woodlark	Lullula arborea			4	1				4				
119	Short-toed Lark	Calandrella brachydactyla									2			
120	Calandra Lark	Melanocorypha calandra				2				3	15			
121	Sand Martin	Riparia riparia				100s	100s	100s	50	50	100s			
122	House Martin	Delichon urbica			10	50	100s	100	10	20	20	10		
123	Swallow	Hirundo rustica	1	6	50	50	100s	100s	100s	100s	100s	100s		
124	Red-rumped Swallow	Hirundo daurica								2				
125	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris								2	2			
126	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis		2	2			2						
127	Meadow Pipit	Anthus pratensis			1									
128	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	2	15	6	5	10	15	6	2	1	5		
129	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea		6	3									
130	Yellow Wagtail	Motacilla flava			2	10		2	1	2	35			
131	Wren	Troglodytes troglodytes		3	1									
132	Dipper	Cinclus cinclus		4	1									
133	Robin	Erithacus rubecula	1	1	4									
134	Nightingale	Luscinia megarhynchos				2								

		Common name	May											
	Scientific name		7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
135	Thrush Nightingale	Luscinia Iuscinia					1	3			1			
136	Redstart	Phoenicurus phoenicurus					10	15	15					
137	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	1	15										
138	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe				1				15	10			
139	Black-eared Wheatear	Oenanthe hispanica								1				
140	Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina								30	3			
141	Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka								5				
142	Stonechat	Saxicola torquata								1				
143	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra		5						1	25			
144	Rock Thrush	Monticola saxatilis								2				
145	Blackbird	Turdus merula		3	10	6		2	3	1	1			
146	Fieldfare	Turdus pilaris		2	20	2								
147	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos	1	3	6	5								
148	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus		1										
149	Garden Warbler	Sylvia borin		1	3	2	2	2						
150	Barred Warbler	Sylvia nisoria									1			
151	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		2	15	4	10	20	10		2			
152	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca		1h	1	1	2	3	10	1				
153	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis			1	2								
154	Sedge Warbler	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus						4						
155	Savi's Warbler	Locustella luscinioides					1	7	1					
156	Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus scirpaceus				1		8	4					
157	Paddyfield Warbler	Acrocephalus agricola									3			
158	Great Reed Warbler	Acrocephalus arundinaceus				2	12	15	10		2			
159	Icterine Warbler	Hippolais icterina									1			
160	Wood warbler	Phylloscopus sibilatrix					1	1						
161	Willow Warbler	Phylloscopus trochilus			1			1			2			
162	Chiffchaff	Phylloscopus collybita		6	6	1	6	5	5	2				
163	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus		1										
164	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus		1										
165	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata				2	2	4		2	40			
166	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Ficedula parva			1h						3			
167	Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula hypoleuca		2		1					1			
168	Collared Flycatcher	Ficedula albicollis			1		1							
169	Great Tit	Parus major		2	10	1	6	6		2				
170	Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus					3	3	2	2				
171	Coal Tit	Parus ater		2	10	2								
172	Marsh Tit	Parus palustris		1	6									
173	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus		2	6		2		2					
174	Bearded Tit	Panurus biarmicus						10						
175	Penduline Tit	Remiz pendulinus						4						
176	Nuthatch	Sitta europaea			4					1				
177	Wallcreeper	Tichodroma muraria		2										
178	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla					2							
179	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio						1	2	1	2			
180	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor							2					

	Scientific name	Common name	Мау										
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
181	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator								3			
182	Magpie	Pica pica	6	20	30	40	10	10	10	25	20	10	
183	Jay	Garrulus glandarius	1	2	10	1		1					
184	Nutcracker	Nucifraga caryocatactes			1								
185	Rook	Corvus frugilegus	1		6	100s				6	100s		
186	Hooded Crow	Corvus corone cornix	10	20	10	50	50	50	50	20	20	10	
187	Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	10		20	50	20		20	25	40	20	
188	Raven	Corvus corax	1	2	3					1			
189	Starling	Sturnus vulgaris		6	20	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	
190	Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus			3	7	17	13	4	20	4	1	
191	Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis								10	40		
192	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	4	12	50	50	50	20	20	50	50	50	
193	Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus					30	10		6			
194	Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	3	40	25	10	20	10	6	4	2	4	
195	Linnet	Acanthis cannabina				1				1			
196	Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris		1		2				1			
197	Serin	Serinus serinus			1								
198	Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis			2	2	2	2		2	2		
199	Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula		1	1								
200	Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes			2								
201	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella		1	6	4				2			
202	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana				2				4	2		
203	Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus						8	1				
204	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra				10				20	20	10	

Mammals

Brown Bear 5 Roe Deer 3 Mole (hills)

Red Squirrel 1 Suslik 50+ Eastern Hedgehog (dead on road)

Chamois 5 Musk Rat 2 Steppe Hare 3

Fox 3

Reptiles & amphibians

Dice Snake (Water Snake)

Marsh Frog

Tree Frog

Edible FrogBalkan Wall LizardSpur-thighed TortoiseEuropean Pond TerrapinFire-bellied ToadYellow-bellied ToadSnake-eyed SkinkGrass SnakeCommon Toad

Butterflies

Painted LadyPeacockMallow SkipperSmall TortoiseshellGlanville FritillaryOrange TipBrimstoneSilver-washed FritillarySwallowtailWood WhiteScarce SwallowtailLarge WhiteSmall WhiteGreen-veined WhiteSmall Heath

Balkan Clouded Yellow Berger's Clouded Yellow

Marbled White Small Copper

Queen of Spain Fritillary Common Blue

Plant List courtesy of Gordon Simpson – Tour Client

This was mainly a birding trip so there was less time to look at plants, fungi, insects etc so identification time was limited. I feel sure that the genus is correct but there might be similar species in Romania to those with which I am familiar in Britain. For example the Wild Strawberry in Romania had much larger flowers than those in Britain so it might be another species. Latin pronunciation differs and Florin gave me the latin verbally for several plants and I could not write them down quickly so many plants are omitted from the list. I must thank Florin for the loan of his book on Romanian flora. In any spare time in the evening I managed to run down some species using this book. Examples of some omissions are the Strangler Fig and the Mistletoe on Oak but there are many more. I also thank Ann for her invaluable help and other members of the group that brought me specimens.

Plants pf note:

Latin English

Abies alba European Silver Fir

Acer campestre Field Maple
Acer negundo Box-elder
Acer platanoides Norway Maple

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore Achillea millefolium Yarrow Adoxa moschatellina Moschatel Aegopodium podagraria Ground-elder Aesculus hippocastanum Horse Chestnut Ailanthus altissima Tree-of-Heaven Ajuga chamaepitys Ground-pine Garlic Mustard Alliaria petiolata

Allium ursinum Ramsons
Alnus glutinosa Alder
Alnus incana Grey Alder

Althea cannainnum

Alyssum alyssoides
Anacamptis pyramidalis
Anemone ranunculoides
Anthericum liliago
Anthoxanthum odoratum
Anthyllis vulneraria
Small Alison
Pyramidal Orchid
Yellow Anemone
St Bernard's Lily
Sweet Vernal-grass
Kidney Vetch

Anthyllis vulneraria Kidney Vetch

Arabidopsis thaliana Thale Cress

Arctium minus Lesser Burdock

Arenaria serpyllifolia Thyme-leaved Sandwort

Artemisia vulgarisMugwortAsarum europaeumAsarabaccaAsparagus officinalisWild AsparagusAsparagus tenuifoliusA Wild Asparagus

Asplenium trichomanes Maidenhair Spleenwort

Aster tripolium Sea Aster

Astragalus monspessulanum

Astragalus varius

Athyrium filix-femina Lady Fern
Barbarea vulgaris Wintercress

Bellis perennis Daisy

Betula pendula
Bromus hordeaceus
Caltha palustris
Capsella bursa-pastoris
Cardamine amara
Silver Birch
Soft Brome
Marsh-marigold
Shepherd's Purse
Large Bitter-cress

Cardamine bulbifera Coralroot
Cardamine pratensis Cuckooflower
Carex hirta Hairy Sedge
Carex ovalis Oval Sedge

Carex riparia Greater Pond Sedge

Carpinus betulus Hornbeam

Catalpa bignonioides Oriental Hornbeam
Indian Bean Tree

Centaura napulifera Centaurea marshalliana

Centaurea nigra
Cerastium fontanum
Cerastium semidecandrum
Chelidonium majus
Chenopodium bonus-henricus
Common Knapweed
Common Mouse-ear
Commo

Chrysosplenium alternifolium Alternate-leaved Golden Saxifrage

Cirsium oleraceum Cabbage Thistle
Cirsium vulgare Spear Thistle

Clematis integrifolia

Clematis vitalba Traveller's-joy
Conium maculatum Hemlock

Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed

Cornus sanguinea Dogwood
Corylus avellana Hazel

Cotinus ccoggygria Smoke-tree
Crambe maritima Sea-kale
Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn

Cynoglossum officinale Hound's-tongue

Cytisus scoparius Broom

Dactylorhiza sambucina Elder-flowered Orchid

Daphne mezereum Mezereon

Deschampsia cespitosa Tufted hair-grass

Descurainia sophia Flixweed

Dianthus nardiformis Rare Red Data Book Species

Dipsacus fullonumTeaselDryopteris filix-masMale FernElaeagnus angustifoliaRussian Olive

Eleocharis palustris Common Spike-rush

Elymus racemosa

Equisetum arvense Field horsetail
Equisetum telmateia Great Horsetail

Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill

Cypress Spurge

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo
Euonymus europaeus Spindle
Euphorbia amygdaloides Wood spurge

Euphorbia cyparissias Euphorbia polychroma

Euphorbia villosa

Fagus sylvatica Beech

Festuca ovina
Sheep's Fescue
Filipendula ulmaria
Meadowsweet
Fragaria vesca
Wild Strawberry
Fraxinus excelsior
Common Ash
Fraxinus ornus
Manna Ash
Fraxinus pennsylvanica
Red Ash

Fumaria officinale Common Fumitory
Galeobdolon luteum Yellow Archangel

Galium cruciata Crosswort

Galium mollugo Hedge Bedstraw

Galium odoratum Woodruff

Gentiana clusii Stemless Gentian
Gentiana verna Spring Gentian

Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
Geranium phaeum Dusky Crane's-bill

Geranium robertianum Herb-Robert

Geraniummolle Dove's-foot Crane's-bill

Geum urbanum Wood Avens
Glechoma hederacea Ground-ivy

Globularia punctate

Glyceria fluitans Floating Sweet-grass

LatinEnglishGymnocarpium dryopterisOak FernHeracleum sphondyliumHogweed

Herniaria glabraGlabrous RupturewortHieracium pilosellaMouse-ear Hawkweed

Hippuris vulgarisMare's-tailHumulus lupulusWild HopHydrocharis morsus-ranaeFrogbit

Hypericum perforatum Perforate St John's-wort

Iris pseudacorus Yellow Iris

Iris suaveolens

Isopyrum thalictroides In the buttercup family

Juglans regiaWalnutJuncus effususSoft RushJuncus inflexusHard RushJuncus tenuisSlender rushJuniperus communisJuniperKoeleria lobataA Grass

Lamium albumWhite Dead-nettleLamium amplexicauleHenbit Dead-nettleLamium maculatumSpotted Dead-nettleLamium purpureumRed Dead-nettle

Lapsana communis Nipplewort

Larix decidua European Larch

Lathraea squamaria Toothwort

Lathyrus pratensisMeadow VetchlingLithospermum arvenseField GromwellLychnis flos-cuculiRagged-robin

Lycium barbatum Duke of Argyll's Teaplant

Lycopus europaeusGipsywortLysimachia nummulariaCreeping JennyMalva neglectaDwarf MallowMentha aquaticaWater MintMentha longifoliaHorse MintMercurialis perennisDog's Mercury

Moehringia grisebackiiRare Red Data Book SpeciesMoehringia trinervisThree-nerved Sandwort

Fringed Water-lily

Mycelis muralis Wall Lettuce

Nymphoides peltatus

Myosotis arvensisField Forget-me-notMyosotis sylvaticaWood Forget-me-notMyosoton aquaticumWater ChickweedNasturtium officinaleWater-cressNymphaea albaWhite Water-lily

Orchis morio Green-winged Orchid

Orchis purpurea Lady Orchid
Orchis simia Monkey Orchid

Ornithogalum boucheanus

Ornithogalum nutans Drooping Star-of-Bethlehem

Ornithogalum umbellatumStar-of-BethlehemOxalis acetosellaWood SorrelPaeonia peregrinaA Wild Peony

Papaver dubiumLong-headed PoppyPapaver rheoasCommon PoppyParis quadrifoliaHerb-ParisPetasites albusWhite Butterbur

Petasites hybridus

Phyllitis scolopendrium

Picea abies

Butterbur

Hart's-tongue

Norway Spruce

Picea pungens Colorada Blue Spruce

Pinus nigra Corsican Pine
Pinus sylvestris Scots Pine
Plantage language to Bibugat Blantai

Plantago lanceolataRibwort PlantainPlantago majorGreater Plantain

Platanthera chlorantha Greater Butterfly-orchid

Platanus orientalis Oriental Plane

Poa annuaAnnual Meadow-grassPoa pratensisSmooth Meadow-grass

Polygonum aviculare Knotgrass

Polypodium vulgareCommon PolypodyPolystichum aculeatumHard Shield-fernPopulus albaWhite Poplar

Populus tremula Aspen

Populus x canadensis Black Poplar cultivar

Populus x canescens Grey Poplar

Potamogeton crispus Curled Pondweed

Potentilla anserina Silverweed

Potentilla argenteaHoary CinquefoilPotentilla reptansCreeping CinquefoilPotentilla tabernaemontaniSpring Cinquefoil

Primula elatiorOxlipPrunella vulgarisSelfhealPrunus aviumWild CherryPrunus mahalebSt Lucie Cherry

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken

Pulmonaria longifolia Narrow-leaved Lungwort

Pulmonaria officinalis Lungwort

16

LatinEnglishPyrus communisPear

Quercus cerris Turkey Oak

Quercus pedunculiflora Balkan Pedunculate Oak

Quercus petraeaSessile OakQuercus roburPedunculate Oak

Quercus rubra Red Oak

Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus auricomus Goldilocks Buttercup

Ranunculus ficaria Celandine

Ranunculus sceleratus Celery-leaved Buttercup

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette
Robinia pseudacacia False Acacia
Rubus fruticosus agg Bramble
Rubus idaeus Raspberry
Rumex acetosa Common Sorrel
Rumex acetosella Sheep's Sorrel
Rumex crispus Curled Dock

Rumex obtusifolius Broad-leaved Dock

Water Dock

Salix albaWhite WillowSalix fragilisCrack WillowSalix purpureaPurple WillowSalvia nutansNodding SageSambucus ebulusDwarf Elder

Sambucus racemosa Red-berried elder

Sanbucus nigra Elder

Sanguisorba minor Salad Burnet
Sanicula europaea Sanicle

Saxifraga corymbosa

Stellaria media

Rumex hydrolapathum

Saxifraga cuneifolia Lesser London Pride Schoenoplectus lacustris Common Club-rush Scleranthus annuus Annual Knawel Scrophularia nodosa Common Figwort Senecio vernalis Spring Groundsel Sesleria albicans Blue Moor-grass Silene conica Sand Catchfly Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet Soldanella marmarossiensis Alpine Snowbell Spergularia marina Lesser Sea-spurrey Stachys sylvatica Hedge Woundwort

Stratiotes aloides Water-soldier
Symphytum officinale Common Comfrey

Common Chickweed

LatinEnglishSyringa vulgarisLilacTamarax gallicaTamariskTanacetum vulgareTansyTaraxacum officinale aggDandelion

Thalictrum flavum Common Meadow-rue

Thelypteris palustris
Thlaspi arvense
Thymus zygioides
Tilia platyphyllos

Marsh Fern
Field Pennycess
A Rare Thyme
Large-leaved Lime

Tilia tomentosa Silver Lime

Torilis nodosa Knotted Hedge-parsley

Tragopogon pratensis

Tribulus terrestris

Small Caltrops

Trifolium medium

Zigzag Clover

Trifolium pratense

Trifolium repens

White Clover

Tussilago farfara

Colt's-foot

Lesser Bulrush

Typha latifolia Bulrush
Ulmus glabra Wych Elm
Urtica dioica Common Nettle

Vaccinium myrtillus Bilberry

Valerianella sp Cornsalad

Veratrum albumFalse HelleborineVerbascum phoeniceumPurple Mullein

Veronica anagallis-aquatica Blue Water Speedwell

Veronica arvensis Wall Speedwell
Veronica beccabunga Brooklime

Veronica chamaedrysGermander SpeedwellVeronica hederifoliaIvy-leaved speedwellVeronica officinalisHeath Speedwell

Veronica persica Common Field Speedwell

Veronica spicataSpiked SpeedwellViburnum opulusGuelder-roseVicia hirsutaHairy TareVicia sativaCommon VetchVicia sepiumBush VetchVinca herbaceaA PeriwinkleVinca minorLesser Periwinkle

v inca minor Lessei Peliwilik

Viola arvensisField PansyViola caninaHeath Dog-violetViola hirtaHairy Violet

Viola jooi A Violet

 $Viola\ reichenbachiana$ Early Dog-violet $Viola\ tricolor$ Wild Pansy $Viscum\ album$ Mistletoe

Xanthium spinosum Spiny Cocklebur

TOTAL 288

Fungi and Lichens

LatinEnglishBoletus luridusLurid BoleteCoprinus comatusShaggy Inkcap

Laetiporus sulphureus Chicken of the Woods
Leptosphaeria acuta On Dead Stem of Nettle

Morchella spA Black MorelPhellinus ignariusWillow BracketPuccinia malvacearumMallow RustPuccinia punctiformisThistle RustSchizophyllum communeSplitgill

Stereum hirsutumHairy Curtain CrustTranzschelia anemonesWood Anemone RustUromyces dactylidisOrange celandine Rust

Uromyces pisi Spurge Rust Xantharia parietina A Lichen

TOTAL 14

Other Orders

LatinEnglishAndricus kollariMarble GallAnthocharis cardaminesOrange TipBiorhiza pallidaOak Apple GallBombina bombinaFire-bellied toadBombina variegataYellow-bellied ToadBombus lucorumWhite-tailed Bumblebee

Bufo bufoCommon ToadCarabus spA Ground BeetleCepaea nemoralisBrown-lipped Snail

Cercopis vulnerata Red and Black Froghopper

Cicindela campestris
Coenonympha pamphilus
Diplolepis rosae
Helix pomatia
Tiger Beetle
Small Heath
Pin Cushion Gall
Roman Snail

Iphiclides podaliriusScarce SwallowtailIschnura elegansBlue-tailed DamselflyIssoria lathoniaQueen of Spain Fritillary

Leptidea sinapsis Wood White

Melitaea cinxiaGlanville Fritillary $Natrix\ natrix$ Grass Snake

Panorpa sp Female Scorpion Fly

Pelophylax ridibundus Marsh Frog

Psyllobora 22-punctata22 Spot LadybirdTachypodoiulus nigerA Black MillipedeTestudo graecaSpur-thighed Tortoise

TOTAL 25