



Bulgaria/Romania Scouting Trip

31 July - 11 August 2014

By Dylan Vasapoli



Spotted Nutcracker

Looking to expand Birding Ecotours' current repertoire of tours, guides Jason Boyce and Dylan Vasapolli jumped at the opportunity to join a "fam trip" to Bulgaria with one of the country's leading bird and wildlife experts.

Despite being a relatively small country, together with Spain Bulgaria boasts the highest biodiversity in Europe, with the birds contributing greatly to this. The vast tracts of different habitats make it a pleasant country to bird, and the country plays host to several scenically beautiful areas, adding to its splendor.

Day 1, July 31. Arrival in Sofia, and transfer to Bansko

Jason and I arrived in Sofia at around lunch time, after a long flight from Johannesburg, South Africa, via Frankfurt, and were met by our local guide, Nikolay, at the airport. We hopped into the van, and, together with Nikolay's colleague Pancho, set off to visit a few sites around Sofia. For the interest of maybe incorporating some more culturally-orientated areas we popped into the Boyana Church (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), and the Natural Museum of History, before heading onwards to Bansko. Dinner was had at a small local restaurant, where we were introduced to the fondness of cheese in Bulgaria, before quickly popping into the Rila Monastery, where we had our first **Pallid Swifts** cruising around just above our heads, coming in to roost. What a magical experience, having these large swifts rippling around at eye-level! Arriving in Bansko relatively late, we retired to our rooms, with high anticipation for the birding that was to begin in earnest tomorrow.

Day 2, August 1. Pirin National Park to Trigrad

We were greeted with rain in the morning, and Nikolay suggested we don't rush, as our birding was nearby, and it would also likely be raining there. After a good breakfast we set off just as the rain held up, and headed up into Pirin National Park. Set in high mountains, rocky crags line the tops of the mountains, while vast tracts of conifer woods line the lower slopes. Remnants of avalanches past cut through the woodland at a few places. The birding here was great, with birds like **Spotted Nutcracker, Grey Wagtail, Coal Tit, Eurasian Bullfinch, Black Redstart, and Eurasian Siskin**. The destroyed portions of the woods, where past avalanches had swept through, were a magnet for birds with all the regenerating plants. The restaurant/coffee shop up at the top of the road was also a good spot, with **Common Cuckoo** seeming very odd cruising over the trees. **Red Crossbills** and **Eurasian Crag Martins** were a dime a dozen, and **Ring Ouzel** zoomed overhead on a few occasions.

After a few hours we set off towards Trigrad Gorge, in the western Rhodope Mountains. A magic lunch stop allowed us to squeeze some birding in, with **Common Cuckoo, Eurasian Honey** and **Common Buzzards**, and **Eurasian Hobby** showing well. **Red-rumped Swallow** was a pleasing bird to get as well. Sadly, our arrival into Trigrad signaled the start of the rain, which had held up nicely today so far, but we relented and gave the famed Wallcreeper a few hours to show itself. Scanning the seriously impressive rocky cliff face was hard work, and we had to walk away without our quarry – for now. We would be back in the morning to give it another try. An evening walk around Trigrad town added **White-throated Dipper** and **European Serin**. Dinner was some local, and very good, trout.

Day 3, August 2. Trigrad to Krumovgrad

We were up early in the morning to give us another few hours scanning the gorge for the Wallcreeper. Sadly there was still a rather annoying drizzle, which would wax and wane, and after a few fly-bys of the local **Peregrine Falcon** in the few hours we were around we had to call it quits once again. We had some further, great views of **White-throated Dipper** before heading onwards toward Krumovgrad in the eastern Rhodope Mountains. Our journey east saw us leaving the wet weather behind us and moving into warm sunshine. A lunch stop near Kardzali was sublime. Set in a more open area, with scattered areas of trees, birds around here included **Cirl** and **Black-headed Buntings**, the highly sought-after **Sombre Tit**, **Woodlark**, **Little Owl**, and the first **Woodchat Shrike**. Having been told of the brilliant birding to be had around Krumovgrad, where we were heading, this small stint of birding only upped our spirits.

Krumovgrad was both what we expected and what we didn't expect. We knew it was going to be a very small town, with not a huge number of people, but we didn't quite know what to expect on the scenery front. Well, it was magic! Vast sandstone cliffs and rocky mountains, lined with dense bushes and thickets nearer the rivers and onto the lower slopes – breathtakingly beautiful! Having been told of the birding prowess in the greater Krumovgrad area, we weren't disappointed, reeling in the likes of **Sardinian** and **Eastern Olivaceous Warblers**, nesting **Black Storks**, **Hawfinch**, **Sombre Tit** (more views of this tough special!), **Common Nightingale**, **Eurasian Sparrowhawk**, **Short-toed Snake-Eagle**, and **Griffon Vulture**. Before long the day had come to an end, and we retired for a great dinner in town.



Sardinian Warbler

Day 4, August 3. Krumovgrad to Pomorie

Being a bit limited on time, we rapidly visited a few more sites in and around Krumovgrad in the morning before setting off to the Black Sea coast at Burgas. The star attraction was just outside of Potocharka, where the steep and vast rocky slopes attract **Egyptian Vulture**, **Griffon Vulture**, **Booted Eagle**, **Northern Raven**, and Cinereous Vulture (we sadly missed the latter, though). Also of interest around here was the highly desired **Blue Rock Thrush**, **Black-eared** and **Northern Wheatears**, **Alpine Swift**, **Black-headed Bunting**, and **Crested Lark**; while a few thickets held numerous **Common Nightingales** and **Eurasian Blackcaps**. Rock Nuthatch is also around, but sadly didn't show for us. As we continued on further east towards the Black Sea

coast, we came across our first **Spanish Sparrow**, always around the ubiquitous **White Stork** nests within the villages.

Later in the afternoon we arrived in Burgas and immediately headed south to a few ponds for some wetland birding. Having not had any water-based birding on the trip so far, it was rather good to reacquaint ourselves with this always productive biome! **Little Bitterns** flashed regularly between the reeds, **Pygmy Cormorants** sought out fish in the far reaches of the ponds, **Western Marsh Harriers** quartered the reeds, **Common Kingfishers** whizzed by, **Western Yellow Wagtails** danced on the exposed mud, and the reeds came alive with the harsh scratchy songs of various warblers (mainly **Sedge**, **Great Reed**, and **Eurasian Reed Warblers**), with the odd group of **Eurasian Penduline Tits** surfacing and showing themselves off. Not to mention the numerous arrays of other waterfowl, herons, egrets, gulls and terns! A large flock of some 100+ **Great White Pelicans** was a pleasing end to the day. We headed further north up the coast to Pomorie, where we stayed overnight.



Blue Rock-Thrush

Day 5, August 4. Pomorie to Pelican Birding Lodge

Early in the morning we headed to the local salt pans, where we enjoyed a good few hours of wader-watching, combined with sifting through the tern and gull roosts and chasing after a few birds on passage moving between the scattered bushes. The wader-watching was productive, with brilliant views of **Common Redshank**, **Dunlin**, **Ruddy Turnstone**, and **Kentish** and **Little Ringed Plovers**. On the tern and gull front highlights included quite a few of the awesome **Little Gulls**, along with some **Mediterranean Gulls** and a few **Black Terns**. Some smaller birds just moving through the area were a **Collared Flycatcher** and an **Icterine Warbler**. After a hearty breakfast we set off toward Pelican Birding Lodge, located in the north of the country on the Danube River near Silistra.

We had a few birding stops on the way, including accessing some further water bodies, which produced our first **Eurasian Oystercatchers** and **Black-tailed Godwits**, some magnificent **Collared Pratincoles**, a lone **Slender-billed Gull** amongst hordes of **Black-headed Gulls**, and a stunning **Spotted Redshank** in full breeding colors. During the heat of the day (far warmer than what we had experienced so far on the trip) we pulled in at a local restaurant and sampled some local cuisine – the chicken stew went down very well – before we arrived at the ‘goritza’ (which

basically means ‘forest’). We were well within the Balkan Mountains now and had just set foot into some very mature woods. Out we hopped, and off we set. We had some quick-fire birding, pulling in **Great Spotted, Middle Spotted, and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Goldcrest,** and our target, **Short-toed Treecreeper**. The remaining drive up to Pelican Birding Lodge went quickly, and before long we were exploring the immediate area of the lodge. In the closing rays of light we struck it lucky and pulled in a **Grey-headed Woodpecker. Eurasian Scops Owl** taunted us after nightfall, and after a dedicated search we eventually laid eyes on this beast!



Collared Pratincole

Day 6, August 5. Birding around Pelican Birding Lodge

We were up early in the morning and quickly shot down to the nearby Danube River for a stint of birding. There was a lot of activity over the river, mainly on the waterbird front, with large numbers of **Black-crowned Night Herons, Squacco and Purple Herons, Whiskered Terns, Yellow-legged and Caspian Gulls,** and **Pygmy Cormorants,** before our first **Dalmatian Pelicans** cruised down the river. This was followed shortly after by a few **Eurasian Spoonbills** and a lone **Gull-billed Tern,** which were immediately topped by a stunning **Northern Goshawk**. With our ‘water-birding’ done, we headed into the riverine forest to see what was around. The riverine forest, too, was ‘pumping’. In no time at all we had turned up **Lesser Whitethroat, Song Thrush, Willow Tit, Syrian and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Eurasian Treecreeper, Spotted Flycatcher, Eurasian Golden Oriole,** and a few of the stunning **Wood Warblers**. We headed back to Pelican Birding Lodge for some well-deserved breakfast and then prepared for the day’s birding.

First off was Srebarna Nature Reserve with its breeding **Dalmatian Pelicans**. We also quickly added a few more **Warblers,** with **Sedge, Eurasian Reed, Great Reed, and Icterine,** and a few **Common Nightingales**. The sun was not in a good position for us to properly scour the lake, and we agreed we would visit later in the day when the sun would be on the opposite side. Following this wetland were a few other additional wetlands, Nova Cherna, Malak Preslavets Marsh, and Garvan Marsh. This string of wetlands produced some fantastic birds, including **Little Crake, Ferruginous Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Eurasian Teal, Water Rail, Dalmatian Pelican,** and the most **Little Bitterns** I had seen in my life! The woodland surrounds too held a few birds, namely **Common Whitethroat, Grey-headed and Middle Spotted**

Woodpeckers, Wood Warblers, Eurasian Honey Buzzard, and our first group of **Long-tailed Tits** – a common European bird, which we had surprisingly missed up until now. Heading back to Srebarna a **Black Stork** slowed our progress, and we were able to add **Common Greenshank** and **Wood Sandpiper** to the list before stumbling upon a magnificent **Thrush Nightingale** – a rare species this far south! We settled in for the night after a good day's birding.



Grey-headed Woodpecker

Day 7, August 6. Pelican Birding Lodge to Kavarna

As on the previous morning we again shot down to the nearby Danube River to see what was around. Our complement of birds was much the same as the previous morning, with the likes of **Eurasian Spoonbill, Dalmatian Pelican, Black-crowned Night Heron, Caspian** and **Yellow-legged Gulls**, but we were able to add a few of the lightning-quick **Common Kingfishers** to our list, together with some good views of a few **Pygmy Cormorants, Eurasian Blackcap, Common Whitethroat,** and **Eurasian Golden Oriole.** Repeat views of **Syrian Woodpecker, Song Thrush,** and **Eurasian Treecreeper** were had before we headed back for a quick breakfast.

Afterwards we set off for Kavarna, where we would be staying for the next two days. A few stops were made in the Krushari region for nesting **Long-legged Buzzards** and **European Bee-eaters.** **Eurasian Hoopoe** was added to the list here, and a lunch break in a section of forest produced a smattering of **Woodpeckers (Great Spotted, Middle Spotted, Lesser Spotted, European Green,** and **Grey-headed), Sand Martin, Crested Larks** and **Woodlarks,** and another sighting of the prized **Sombre Tit.** We arrived in Kavarna in the early afternoon, and after a quick rest headed out to a few spots near the town. First was a large wooded gorge that produced **Long-legged** and **Eurasian Honey Buzzards, Alpine Swifts,** and **Eurasian Hobby,** before we headed out to a point along the coast to scan for Yelkouan Shearwater. Sadly, our scan was unsuccessful, but we were able to pick up a few **Little Gulls,** and two very possible Parasitic Jaegers – they were just out of the scope's range to be 100% sure of the ID. Kavarna is Pancho's home town, who has been driving us around on this trip, and he very kindly invited us for dinner at his house. Dinner was some of the best mussels and fish I've had the privilege of tasting.

Day 8, August 7. Birding around Kavarna

Today we would be concentrating on birding the dry steppes found in the north-eastern part of the country, along with some more sea-watching and a visit to the well-known Durankulak Lake. First up was the Durankulak Lake, where we were able to enjoy some good birding for a few hours. **Western Marsh Harriers** quartering over the reeds would flush up a glut of birds every now and then – allowing us to add **Common Snipe**, **Northern Shoveler**, and **Great Egret** to the trip list. Many other species were around, with **Ferruginous Duck**, **Little Bittern**, **Purple Heron**, **Western Yellow Wagtail**, **Little Ringed Plover**, and **Little Stint** all presenting themselves. **Spotted Crakes** were rather vocal, and we spent some time trying to lure one into an opening, sadly without success. On one of these forays into the wetland we flushed what was probably the bird of the day from the long grass fringing the wetland – a **Eurasian Bittern**!

We then set off to bird one portion of the steppes just to the south of the lake, where we came up trumps with **Common Quail**, the giant **Calandra Lark**, **Eurasian Skylark**, **Tawny Pipit**, and **European Stonechat**. A female ‘ringtail’ harrier flushed up out of the track, but sadly flew off directly away from us, giving us no views, so that we were unable to pin an ID to it. **Northern Wheatears** roamed widely around the area. Lunch was had in a small group of trees on the southern shoreline of the lake, and we were entertained by the antics of **Great Reed Warblers** and **Lesser Whitethroats**. **Glossy Ibis** and **Great Crested Grebe** were added as well. A quick swim in the Black Sea was needed to cool the body before we resumed our birding. More birding near Cape Kaliakra raked in a few more species – **Pied Wheatears** adorned every available perch, **Lesser Grey Shrikes** lay strewn across the fences, and we managed to reconnect with all the larks we had seen so far, bar Woodlark (**Crested**, **Calandra**, and **Eurasian Skylark**), before eventually finding our main target, **Greater Short-toed Lark**. **Long-legged Buzzards** hunted over the steppes, and we ended the day off with a few **European Shags** on the rocks off the coast.



Eurasian Bittern

Day 9, August 8. Transfer to the Danube Delta, Romania

Today we had a rather leisurely start to the morning, with the only planned birding set for this afternoon, when we would arrive at the world-renown Danube Delta in neighboring Romania. The Delta being such an iconic destination, we were most excited about what lay in store for us!

A few birding stops were made, just outside Constanta in some of the most mature woodland I have ever seen, and further to the north at Babadag Lake. Birds seen included **Wood Warbler, Middle Spotted Woodpecker, Hawfinch, Eurasian Treecreeper, Common Shelduck, Black-necked Grebe, Red-footed Falcon, Western Marsh Harrier, Black-tailed Godwit, and Ruff**, amongst many others. Shortly after Babadag we were on a boat, heading to our lodgings, Hotel Complex Cormoran, which is situated on an island within the Delta.

We barely had time to put our things down before setting off to a few nearby fishponds for some afternoon birding. This area proved spectacular, with huge numbers of waterfowl and birds in general. Birds ranged from large numbers of **Greylag Geese** through to the three marsh **Terns (Whiskered, White-winged, and Black)**, **Mute Swan, Glossy Ibis, Purple Heron, Little Bittern, Little and Great Egrets**, and so many more. **Eurasian Hobby** would fly over at regular intervals, driving madness into the smaller birds below, **Western Marsh Harriers** would patrol the horizon, and the highlight of it all, **White-tailed Eagles** would perch atop trees, signaling themselves to the world. A small family of wild boar we encountered just before heading back ended the proceedings. A spectacular dinner was had!



White-tailed Eagle

Day 10, August 9. Birding the Danube Delta

Up bright and early, we had the day today to check out various parts of the Delta and see what would be suitable to include in a future tour. First up was to cruise around some of the larger lakes and see what the wetland birding was like. It certainly did not disappoint and held spectacularly huge numbers of birds – everywhere! We enjoyed great looks at species like **Great Crested Grebe, Ferruginous Duck, Eurasian Teal, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron, Dalmatian and Great White Pelicans, Pygmy and Great Cormorants, Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls, Caspian Tern** and the three marsh terns, **Green Sandpiper, Common Greenshank**, the strange **Northern Lapwing, Eurasian Oystercatcher, White-tailed Eagle, Eurasian Penduline Tit, and Common Kingfisher**. Woodland-associated species included **Syrian, Great Spotted, and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers, Common Nightingale, Lesser Whitethroat, Long-tailed Tit, and Eurasian Golden Oriole**.

Later in the afternoon, while out on the lakes, a rapid change in weather saw a huge shower of rain come over, which left us all drenched and seeking some warmth. This cut our afternoon

birding short, as we had to make our way back to our lodge. It rained for the remainder of the day while we were cooped up inside. We had a hearty meal, since this was to be our last night of the trip as we would be heading back home tomorrow.



A Ferruginous Duck – one of thousands of waterfowl in the Delta

Day 11, August 10. Transfer to Bucharest and end of tour

We had a leisurely morning around the lodge with birding limited to the grounds – **White Wagtail**, **Great Tit**, and **White-tailed Eagle** being the most interesting birds of the morning, before undertaking the long drive towards Bucharest, where we would spend the night, and onwards back home the following day.

BULGARIA/ROMANIA SYSTEMATIC LIST, AUGUST 2014

Total species seen: 182

Common name	Scientific name
ANSERIFORMES	
Ducks, Geese and Swans (Anatidae)	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
GALLIFORMES	
Pheasants and allies (Phasianidae)	

Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
PODICIPEDIFORMES	
Grebes (Podicipedidae)	
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
CICONIIFORMES	
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
PELECANIFORMES	
Ibises, Spoonbills (Threskiornithidae)	
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
Hérons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Eurasian Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Pelicans (Pelecanidae)	
Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
SULIFORMES	
Cormorants, Shags (Phalacrocoracidae)	
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>
European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
ACCIPITRIFORMES	
Kites, Hawks and Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>
European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>

Short-toed Snake Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
GRUIFORMES	
Rails, Crakes and Coots (Rallidae)	
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
CHARADRIIFORMES	
Oystercatchers (Haematopodidae)	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Stilts, Avocets (Recurvirostridae)	
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Plovers (Charadriidae)	
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
Sandpipers, Snipes (Scolopacidae)	
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>

Courser, Pratincoles (Glareolidae)	
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Gulls, Terns and Skimmers (Laridae)	
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
COLUMBIFORMES	
Pigeons, Doves (Columbidae)	
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
CUCULIFORMES	
Cuckoos (Cuculidae)	
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
STRIGIFORMES	
Owls (Strigidae)	
Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
APODIFORMES	
Swifts (Apodidae)	
Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Pallid Swift	<i>Apus pallidus</i>
CORACIIFORMES	
Rollers (Coraciidae)	
European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>

Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Bee-eaters (Meropidae)	
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
BUCEROTIFORMES	
Hoopoes (Upupidae)	
Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
PICIFORMES	
Woodpeckers (Picidae)	
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
FALCONIFORMES	
Caracaras, Falcons (Falconidae)	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
PASSERIFORMES	
Shrikes (Laniidae)	
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>
Figbirds, Orioles (Oriolidae)	
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
Crows, Jays (Corvidae)	
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Tits, Chickadees (Paridae)	

Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>
Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>
Penduline Tits (Remizidae)	
Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Larks (Alaudidae)	
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Bushtits (Aegithalidae)	
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Leaf Warblers and allies (Phylloscopidae)	
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Reed Warblers and allies (Acrocephalidae)	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
Sylviid Babbler (Sylviidae)	
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Sardinian Warbler	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>
Goldcrests, Kinglets (Regulidae)	
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>

Nuthatches (Sittidae)	
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Treecreepers (Certhiidae)	
Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Starlings, Rhabdornis (Sturnidae)	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Thrushes (Turdidae)	
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Chats, Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>
Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Blue Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola solitarius</i>
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe hispanica</i>
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
Dippers (Cinclidae)	
White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (Passeridae)	
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Accentors (Prunellidae)	
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>

Finches (Fringillidae)	
Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>
Buntings, New World Sparrows and allies (Emberizidae)	
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
Species: 182	