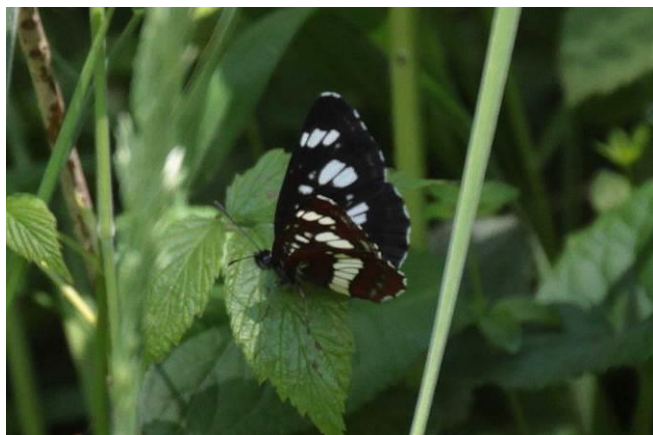


# Romania - The Wildlife of Transylvania

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 14 June 2014

---



Hungarian Glider



Purple Treble-bar



Penduline Tit



Pearly Heath

Report & images compiled by Andy Harding

---



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Leader:	Andy Harding Dan Marin	Naturetrek Naturalist Local guide and Naturalist
Participants:	Anthony Earl Chris Kirby Phillippa Kirby Elaine Marsh Gary Marsh Rosie Marsh June Oliver Jackie Pointon Mike Pointon Hugh Reeves Metta Reeves Margaret Riley Peter Riley John Tarr	

## Day 1

Saturday 7th June

### 30 C with a hint of rain in Bucharest

Andy and most of the group flew from Heathrow T5 to Bucharest. Baggage reclaim and passport control were very smooth and we exited to meet Simona, our local tour manager. We also met Philippa and Chris Kirby – two surprise, but very welcome, late additions to our group. We packed the luggage into our air-conditioned bus and headed roughly north on the E60 dual-carriageway. Most of the route is through flat arable countryside, where the occasional Marsh Harrier and White Stork reminded us of one of the main foci of the trip. Our rest-stop saw some of the group venturing up an enticing looking bank, rewarded by two day-flying moths: Speckled Yellow, which was to become very familiar, and Latticed Heath.

Soon afterwards, the road became narrower and more winding as we climbed gently up through the Prahova Valley, with its prosperous looking towns and chalets as well as beautiful forest, initially deciduous, but with a greater coniferous mix as we rose higher. There was a brief descent onto the plain of Brasov before climbing again towards Zarnesti. On the further outskirts of that town the road to Magura became steeper, decidedly rougher and hence much slower. Eventually we arrived at the Mosorel Guesthouse where we met George, his wife, Oana, and their new, 4 day old baby. The views were simply breathtaking and a couple of the group even saw a Chamois on the crags opposite, before a welcoming plum brandy and an absolutely excellent dinner.

## Day 2

Sunday 8th June

### 28 C...a little cooler in the valleys

A small group did a little birding before breakfast, with Black Redstart surpassed by wheeling Alpine Swifts. The 7 or 8 Chamois lazing in the sun opposite us were watched through the scopes by everybody before we tackled the enormous choice which was available for breakfast.

Around 8am we met our local natural and cultural history guide, Dan, who was to be with us all week. Having enjoyed the Green Hairstreak and several interesting plants right outside the gate of the guesthouse, we set off on our walk to the floor of the Zarnesti Gorge. An hour later we had gone no more than 400m, so incredibly prolific was the plant and insect life, as well as our first close-up encounter with Romanian Shepherd society and its workings: In giving us some insight into this, Dan was absolutely invaluable.

In this period we did manage to see Fieldfares, both species of Redstart singing atop adjacent trees or buildings and were able to appreciate how common is the 'scarce in Britain' Tree Sparrow. The beautiful sunny morning soon added Little Blue and Woodland Ringlet, as well as several more familiar species, to the butterfly list. The density and variety of floral colour in these hay meadows and their millions of attendant bees and chafers created an astonishing sight and sound which was all around us. Plants of particular interest were a large patch of Arnica, Ragged Robin simply everywhere, Creeping Campanula, Nottingham Catchfly, Fragrant Orchid, Heart-shaped Marsh Orchid, Fellwort and Siberian Gentian. It was amazing to think that in just a few weeks' time all these fields, astonishingly precipitous in many cases, will be cut by scythe.

We then descended into trees, predominately Spruce, Beech and Oak. A couple of Wood Warblers, as well as commoner woodland species, regaled us, mainly unseen, as we reached the tumbling, chattering stream in the bottom of the valley. It was the weekend, so in company with increasing numbers of local visitors, we walked steadily up the track towards Zarnesti Gorge proper to lunch. A quite splendid gourmet picnic, entirely prepared by Simon and her mother Elena, awaited us, accompanied by Moldovian Merlot or Elderflower cordial. Of course we had eventually to return to looking at the wider natural world.

Grey Wagtails flitted past and Alpine Swifts gave their surprising harsh chattering call overhead, but birds were generally few. More prolific was a goodly hatch of Pearl-bordered Fritillaries and even larger numbers of Duke of Burgundy Fritillary. Just one or two examples of rare plants were seen, sometimes through the scope, high up on the face of the towering gorge. These included Wolfsbane, Edelweiss at its lowest level in Romania, Alpine Bells, Alpine Rose and Siberian Iris. Eventually we had to give up on these delights, stroll back to the waiting bus and be taken back up the hill to Magura. Distant thunderstorms reminded us how lucky we had been to have blue skies all day. Dinner was a further reminder of how lucky we were!

## Day 3

Monday 9th June

28 C - Sunny all day

Another gloriously sunny morning, and the usual Red-backed Shrike, Yellowhammer and Black Redstarts were there to greet the early risers. Three groups of Chamois lazed on the cliffs opposite. Breakfast is so good, it makes it difficult for the whole group to assemble absolutely on time. However perhaps it was the moths in containers, such as Royal Mantle, Shark and Treble Lines, being passed round over breakfast which also caused the short delay!

Once en route, we pick up Dan in Zarnesti and then drive less than 1 km outside the town to sloping grassy pastures which gradually climb to the base of the tree-line on the hills. Tree Pipits song-flight from both the scattered deciduous and coniferous trees. 2 Nutcrackers are seen flying from the tops of conifers, while Red-backed Shrikes prefer the smaller bushes.

Butterflies abound, mainly familiar species such as Painted Lady, Brown Argus and Small Heath, accompanied by the Small Blues and Woodland Ringlets encountered yesterday, but Mazarine Blues are new. Day-flying moths confuse us, at least initially, as several Black-veined Moths try to look like butterflies, while Burnet Companion pops up regularly as we walk through the grass. These meadows are dense with flowers, amongst which, most notably were Carpathian Pansy, Wild Rose, Fragrant Orchid, Cowslips and Heath Spotted Orchid.

Another incredible lunch is brought to us by jeep, by Simona and her mum...all home-cooked except for the Carp 'taramasalata'. Leaving the shady lunching area without finishing the last piece of pudding is very difficult. Like yesterday's, this lunch ends with a round of applause! During lunch Simona managed an amazing sentence with no punctuation, which ended '....we substituted cherries for strawberries because the strawberries were not quite good enough there's a Buzzard' which demonstrates the vast range of skills of our hosts!

The afternoon followed a familiar pattern during which Honey Buzzard and Nuthatch were added to the bird list. Then we returned to the road to be picked up by the bus and taken into Zarnesti for 5pm to Mimi's guesthouse, with Lesser Whitethroat singing in her garden, a few relaxing drinks and another excellent dinner.

Then it was our first try for the largest European carnivore, Brown Bear. Once out of the bus, silence was the rule as we walked up the track and eventually settled down to wait in the hide. The only bear to appear, seen by the ranger and Dan, came in behind the hide, but was spooked by something (certainly not the group, but possibly a larger bear in the vicinity) and disappeared back into the forest. It did not return to the baited area before we had to leave, safely, before it was pitch black. The group were very patient throughout and on returning to the bus did not seem too down-hearted at this disappointing end to a superb day. Apart from something of a moth vigil, it was straight to bed once we got back to the guesthouse.

## Day 4

Tuesday 10th June

30 degrees C Sunny all day; windy with some rain in the late evening

Another scorcher of a morning, but with no Chamois on the cliffs... Breakfast was again enlivened by some cracking moths with the UK-familiar Treble-bar compared to the less familiar Purple Treble-bar and several other goodies.

Having picked up Dan our destination was just under an hour away and without a village name: it is simply called the Narcissus Forest. A few weeks earlier we would have understood why. However it still had much to offer. As we sorted ourselves out by the bus before beginning our walk, Golden Orioles, Hoopoe, White Storks and Wood Larks suggested this was a good spot. We walked several hundred metres until we reached our lunch stop! A couple of Whinchats fed from the tops of low bushes or tall plants. A Bee-eater did sit up nicely for all to see in the scopes. A couple of Lesser Grey Shrikes were less obliging, but it became clear they were feeding young: catching prey reasonably close to us, but then moving some distance away with it, at regular intervals.

Beautiful Demoiselles performed nicely in a small stream and the butterfly enthusiasts chased Browns, mainly Meadow, and Blues, mainly Common, and Heaths, all Small, through the grassland. The butterfly highlight was of a dead Poplar Admiral found about 200 m from the nearest tree. Oh for a live one!

Nonetheless, of considerable interest were several Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries which chose the same spot as us to picnic, while young Great Spotted Woodpeckers could be heard and sometimes seen as they peeped out of their nest hole upon which a telescope was trained. And then there was lunch: home cooked and brought 40km bang on time...this is incredible. Lunch was further enhanced by a birthday cake for Dan and choruses of 'Happy Birthday' in two languages.

A lengthy afternoon walk in the forest enabled Dan to use his skills, explaining exactly why tracks were those of Wild Cat, Brown Bear, Roe Deer and Badger. Most of us could recognize the excavations of Wild Boar. Lesser Butterfly Orchid, Dropwort and, indeed, Lily of the Valley were enjoyed by all. Nuthatches were plentiful and Marsh Tits easily seen. Chequered Skipper, Marsh and Heath Fritillary were good additions to the butterfly list, but the much wanted Poplar Admiral was disturbed from the muddy edge of a small pool and seen by only two people. The last few hundred metres required us to leave the well-defined track and subsequently the workings of myriads of ants' nests and the diggings of Wild Boar made the terrain difficult as we negotiated a large mixed herd of Goats, Cattle and Water Buffaloes.

We were still back nearly two hours before the excellent dinner followed by our nightly log of the day's sightings. Just as dinner started a sudden violent wind accompanied by a little rain bore down upon Magura, but it soon slackened and by the end of the meal all was once again serene. More good weather tomorrow...please!

## Day 5

Wednesday 11th June

27 C - Largely sunny and hot

An excellent night for moths, with too many to process before the early 6.30 breakfast! Just a few more clouds in the sky this morning during breakfast, which included home-made sausages, but by the time we made our departure at 7.30 things looked much more promising. After picking up Dan in Zarnesti, our first stop was in the village of Vulcan to photograph a very impressive White Stork's nest with three well-advanced young birds in it. As Dan gave us a briefing on the local architecture linked to the background of the Saxon (German), Hungarian and Romanian populations as well as the nature of government, in times past, a Lesser Spotted Eagle cruised past.

We then drove to Dubromvitsa Fishponds and our first serious look at a freshwater habitat. Night Herons, Great White Egrets, Squacco Herons and Little Bitterns were all seen with reasonable frequency to join the more expected Grey Herons and Little Egrets. Eventually both Pygmy Cormorant and Purple Heron condescended to put in a couple of appearances. Even more action was provided by the resident population of Marsh Harriers, with their jousting, courting and hunting: at least one seemed to be in the air throughout our visit. Cuteness always has a place on these trips so young Great Crested Grebes on their parents' backs and a female Pochard with a very large brood of ducklings went down well.

A Marsh Warbler was singing at the first junction we came to: its thin highly mimetic song competing with the much louder and monotonous Great Reed Warblers. While the latter showed very well, we were fortunate to get nice views of one of three persistently 'reeling' Savi's Warblers. Sedge Warblers joined the chorus as we progressed further round our chosen 'pond', the far side of which was rich in insect life.

Chestnut Heath and Green-underside Blue were the highlights in the butterfly category, while Forester, Gypsy and several examples of the enigmatic *Pentapthera morio* vied for attention on the moth front. Four-spotted Chaser and Norfolk Hawker were new Dragonflies.

A circuit of this fabulous area had taken us almost to lunchtime, whereupon we drove to another pond in this complex to meet Simona and Elena with another stunning lunch, which we devoured in the shade of the trees. How the haute cuisine mushroom dish which accompanied the chicken breast can be called a 'stew', which is how Simona described it, is beyond me. Elderflower cordial and Moldovian Merlot flowed as usual.

Suitably replete, we then took in another fish pond at Rotbav, which held a noisy Black-headed Gull colony. Everyone now obtained a lovely view of a drake Ferruginous Duck, but an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler sang from a hidden perch. White-tailed Skimmers fooled all the non-dragonfly experts in the group, with their black tails! However everything was outshone by a nest-building male Penduline Tit which along with a second bird performed brilliantly in the Reedmace heads before taking material back to a tree, within which its nest hung, and where we could appreciate fully this extraordinary structure. From the same point we could also enjoy the unusual Flowering Rush.

Then it was sightseeing in Brasov, starting with another essential rundown on the complexities of governance, much moulded by ethnicities and religions, over the centuries to the present day. Very few countries have fortified churches, for instance, but now we know why they have them in Romania. The Saxon 'Black Church' is a 'must-see', with its highly visible but astonishing collection of Ottoman, indeed, Muslim, carpets, and its pews, owned by twenty different ancient guilds. Guessing the guild from the decoration on the front of the pews was an entertaining game!

There was still time for coffee, ice-cream and postcard buying before returning to the Guesthouse for a shower (it had been another lovely hot day) and a little R&R before superb dinner. The light doughnuts with cream and Rhubarb jam were voted the highlight, but only just. This was expected to be the best day for birds and that was clearly justified in the daily log...

## Day 6

Thursday 12th June

28 C - Sunny all day

Another bright sunny morning: it was simply fabulous to be up early amidst the meadows and lovely bird song, even if nothing new was seen. It was also enlivened by the early collection and identification of two days of macro-moths, including newcomers Bordered Gothic, Pale Shining Brown and Marbled Brown...and of course there was breakfast!

After picking Dan from his usual corner our first stop was about 20 minutes later in Sinca Noua to transfer to horse-drawn wagons (definitely not carriages) for the journey up the main road to the entrance of the Stramba Valley. This might seem a bit quirky, but everyone enjoyed it greatly. The first things we noted were Fieldfare and Red-backed Shrike, while Sombre Tits crossing the road and an obliging Lesser Spotted Eagle were of greater rarity value. When we disembarked, it was a slow disjointed, but lovely, amble up the valley.

Woodlarks and more aerobatics from the Eagle accompanied us for the first part of our walk. The beautiful meadows initially produced no new butterflies, despite considerable effort to find new species, but that changed dramatically further on. Pristine High Brown Fritillaries abounded, including some of the form *cleodoxa*, which don't have the usual silver discs on the underside of the hindwing. Amidst this melee a Dark Green was also photographed. Heath, False Heath, and later during the day, Lesser Marbled, added to the tally for that group of butterflies. Chestnut and Pearly Heaths accompanied the much more numerous Small Heaths. Pride of place went to the beautiful and very impressive Poplar Admiral which performed well for all to see on the track: this was great since the sighting two days earlier had been much more limited.

And then there were the flowers. The sheer spectacle of the meadows and the change from field to field simply defy most British experience, and while, this is hugely impressive to all of us, the botanists identify White and Yellow Violas, Spreading Bellflowers and Alpine Buttercups as new highlights.

With the end-point of the day – a bear hide- in mind, Dan took us through our paces with tracking. Adult and young bear tracks were very fresh, and Dan warned us not to wander off into the forest on our own. The surprising similarity of Roe Deer and Wild Boar tracks, and how to tell the difference was our next lesson. Superb though the valley was, we had to retreat to Sinca for our early dinner, accompanied by some interesting, but not *cuvee speciale*, Rose wine. On the other hand the soup would have been difficult to improve upon. Then it was back to Stramba and a long slow drive deep into the forest. A silent short walk, and a now improved footbridge across a fast flowing and noisy stream and into the hide, at an hour considered much too early by some of the group...Nonetheless the first bear, an eight year-old male, appeared within 20 minutes, followed by four females, two independent young bears and an even more mature male. These bears appeared at different times during the evening, but there was a surprising amount of friendly collaborative feeding. Clearly the males knew most of the females from previous encounters of a different nature.

After such a successful visit we were able to quietly leave the hide, with adult bears still present, a little earlier than planned and while visibility was still reasonable. As we did so a young bear was walking a parallel track towards us, less than 100m away. Most of the group saw it before it saw us, but when it did, it dashed rapidly uphill, but then stopped and turned, watching us, in the gloom, from a respectful distance. A fantastic evening!

## Day 7

Friday 13th June

26 C - Mainly sunny, but with a little more cloud

Hints of more cloud rapidly diminished as we drove down to Zarnesti, always vigilant for Dippers and Grey wagtails in the stream alongside the track. A couple of futile attempts to buy local honey (we would succeed tomorrow) delayed us a little, but we were soon in the Barsa area with a view to exploring a couple of valleys. Again the quality of the flower meadows, and the density of species was extraordinary. Amongst them were a plethora of Bug Orchids, which on one bank appeared in numbers such that none of the botanists had ever seen previously. There were also great quantities of Queen Anne's Lace and *Elecampanie* was a nice find. The smell of Wild Thyme was intoxicating as we walked through these meadows and that in itself is very attractive to butterflies. Most of the 'Blues' here were Common, but a Purple-shot Copper was a real little stunner!

Dan moved some way ahead of the main party to retrieve two enthusiasts who had overshot the left turn we intended to take. While doing so he was able to photograph a Hungarian Glider on the track. Envy was short-

lived as, fortunately, the rest of the group were able to see a couple more of these very well as we moved up the valley. Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries flitted about and just one newly-emerged Silver-washed Fritillary performed beautifully, while a Honey Buzzard gave a low level overhead fly past revealing all its plumage detail, as opposed to having to rely on structural features and flight mode to enable identification. Individual floral treats were less evident, but the colour, intensity and sheer scale of this broad-leaved forest left us with a brilliant picture.

Eventually we had to return to Zarnesti and bade farewell to Dan, who had done such a wonderful job over the last week – he is simply a superb guide and a delightful companion. Back at the guesthouse the weather was still fine, so most, disdaining any thought of packing, set out independently to enjoy the meadows, superb flowers such as Yellow Melancholy Thistle and the ‘Yellow’ Foxgloves, a new moth in the shape of Small Argent and Sable and our first Wood White Butterfly. Both Redstarts, Alpine Swifts, Jays, Mistle Thrushes and Fieldfares were regular companions. What a splendid early evening before our final dinner of Trout, cooked to the very highest standard, as we have come to expect! And Spain v Holland was on the telly later on. It was World Cup fever for an international audience!

## Day 8

Saturday 14th June

26 C - Sunny

Great Oak Beauty and Clay Triple-lines were the most appreciated of last night’s catch. Given we have been relying on only two small external lightbulbs, it has been an excellent week for macro-moths; they weren’t all Drabs! Breakfast was taken a little later, so there was plenty of time for packing, and a final wander around this wonderful location. Our coach reappeared on time, so it was time for sad farewells to George, Oana and their children. They could not have been better hosts.

Our hour in Bran and the visit to its famous castle produced mixed reviews, since it was very busy and that gave us less time to appreciate all of it and its real, as opposed to legendary, historical significance. Then we set off south with comfort and lunch stops en route to Bucharest airport, as well as an extra stop to buy local honey: an opportunity taken by most of the group.

Procedures at Bucharest airport were very efficient and we had a smooth flight to London. It had been a great group, always cooperative and invariably good-humoured, appreciative of one another’s different enthusiasms and continually encouraging to one another. Particular note must be made of the Plant Group. The plant list appended to this report has been compiled by Margaret, particularly in collaboration with Anthony and Hugh. Their efforts, along with Dan, greatly enhanced the enjoyment of this focus of the tour for everyone. Thank you all for such a good week!

## 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 [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.



## Species List

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; h -= heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>					1			
2	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>					15			
3	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓				✓			
4	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>					15			
5	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>					2			
6	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>					4			
7	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>					1			
8	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					14			
9	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>					1			
10	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	12		3	6	4+	3	2	✓
11	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					6			
12	Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>					20			
13	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>					6			
14	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	✓			1	40			
15	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					3			
16	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>					3			
17	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>					8			
18	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	1				20			
19	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>					3			
20	European Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			1		1		1	
21	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	5			1	8			✓
22	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		1					1	
23	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1	1	6	✓	3	✓	✓	✓
24	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>					1	3	1	
25	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>					1			
26	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	2	2	2		2		1	1
27	Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>						2h	2h	
28	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>					10			
29	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	1				4			
30	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					50			
31	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	✓				4			
32	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>					12			
33	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
34	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>				1				
35	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		1		2	2	2	1	
36	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>			1					
39	Alpine Swift	<i>Tachymarptis melba</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
40	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
41	European Bee-Eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				1				
42	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		h		4				
43	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				h				
44	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>						1		
45	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>				h				
46	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>						1		
47	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			h	3				

	Common name	Scientific name	June								
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
48	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>		1					1		
49	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
50	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>				2					
51	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				4+	h	h			
52	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		4	6	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
53	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
54	Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>			2+					h	
55	Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	✓				✓				
56	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓				✓				
57	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
58	Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		1	1	4	h	✓	✓		
59	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>				2		h	6		
60	Sombre Tit	<i>Poecile lugubris</i>						2			
61	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>		1		1				2	
62	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>				1					
63	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
64	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓		
65	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				6					
66	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>					2				
67	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				5		8			
68	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			h	6	h	2	h		
69	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
70	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
71	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		h	2	2+				1+	
72	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>		2h		h				h	
73	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>					6				
74	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>					4				
75	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					1				
76	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>					1				
77	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>					h				
78	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					3				
79	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		✓	4	✓	✓	✓	✓		
80	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			h	h	1	h	h		
81	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		1	2	1	1	h			
82	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			1						
83	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>			h						
84	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		1							
85	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			2	6	1	h			
86	Treecreeper sp	<i>Certhia sp</i>				1		1			
87	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88	Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
89	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		3	1	10	1	3	4		
90	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		1	1+	2		h	2		
91	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>		6	6	1	2	8	8	✓	
92	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		1+	1+	1			h		
93	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>		3	2				✓		
94	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		2		1	1	2	7		
95	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			2	2					
96	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	1				1	1	1		
97	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
98	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		6	1	4	20	✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
99	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>		6	1	1	1	4	5	1
100	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		3	4	3	✓	✓	✓	✓
101	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>			10	4		1	h	
102	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	1	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
103	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>					1			
104	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				4	2	4	3	
105	Common Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>					2			
106	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>				2				
107	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>		4	1+	3+	2	3	2	1
108	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					2			

## Butterflies

1	Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>							✓	
2	Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>			✓					
3	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
4	Green-veined White	<i>Artogeia napi</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓				
5	Small White	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
6	Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>		✓	✓					
7	Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>			✓	✓			✓	
8	Wood White .	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>							✓	
9	Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
10	Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>					✓			
11	Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>		✓	✓	✓				
12	Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓						
13	Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>		✓	✓					
14	Purple Shot Copper	<i>Heodes alciphron</i>							✓	
15	Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar rutilus</i>						✓		
16	Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>			✓				✓	
17	Lesser Fiery Copper	<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>				✓				
18	Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>					✓	✓		
19	Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		✓	✓			✓	✓	
20	Mazarine Blue	<i>Polyommatus semiargus</i>			✓					
21	Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>					✓	✓		
22	Duke of Burgundy	<i>Hamearis lucina</i>		✓		✓				
23	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓	✓		✓		✓	
24	Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>							✓	
25	Dark Green Fritillary	<i>Argynnis aglaja</i>						✓		
26	High Brown Fritillary	<i>Argynnis adippe</i>						✓		
27	Silver-washed Fritillary	<i>Argynnis paphia</i>							✓	
28	Lesser Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis ino</i>						✓		
29	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana euphrosyne</i>		✓	✓					
30	Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Clossiana selene</i>				✓		✓	✓	
31	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>				✓				
32	Poplar Admiral	<i>Limenitis populi</i>				✓		✓		
33	Hungarian Glider	<i>Neptis rivularis</i>							✓	
34	False Heath Fritillary	<i>Melitaea diamena</i>						✓		
35	Heath Fritillary	<i>Mellicta athalia</i>				✓		✓		
36	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
37	Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Pearly Heath	<i>Coenonympha arcania</i>						✓		
39	Chestnut Heath	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>					✓	✓		

	Common name	Scientific name	June							
			7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
40	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Woodland Ringlet	<i>Erebia medusa</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
42	Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			✓					
43	Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓	
44	Marbled White	<i>Melanargia galathea</i>			✓					
45	Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>		✓		✓			✓	
46	Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>				✓				
47	Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i>				✓		✓	✓	
48	Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		✓	✓					

## Moths

Forester, *Adscita statices*

Clay Triple-lines, *Cyclophora linearia*

Small Fan-footed wave, *Idaea isolata*

Silver-ground Carpet, *Xanthorhoe montanata*

Royal Mantle, *Catarhoe cuculata*

Yellow Shell, *Camptogramma bilineata*

Small Argent and Sable, *Epirrhoe tristata*

Grass Rivulet, *Perizoma albulata*

Common Pug, *Eupithecia vulgata*

Purple Treble-bar, *Aplocera praeformata*

Speckled Yellow, *Pseudopanthera macularia*

Great Oak Beauty, *Hypomecis roboraria*

Hummingbird Hawk-moth, *Macroglossum stellatarum*

*Penthaphora morio*

Black Arches, *Lymantria monacha*

Four-dotted Footman, *Cybosia mesomella*

Buff Ermine, *Spilosoma luteum*

Heart and Dart, *Agrotis exclamationis*

Large Yellow Underwing, *Noctus pronuba*

Bordered Gothic, *Heliophobus reticulata*

Light Brocade, *Lacanobia w-latinum*

Clay, *Mythimna ferrago*

Shark, *Cuculla umbratica*

Common Silver Y, *Autographa gamma*

Burnet Companion, *Euclidia glyphica*

Festoon, *Apoda limacodes*

Cream Wave, *Scopula floslactata*

Red Twin-spot Carpet, *Xanthorhoe spadicearia*

Garden Carpet, *Xanthorhoe fluctuata*

July Belle, *Scotopteryx luridata*

Purple Bar, *Cosmorhoe ocellata*

Spruce Carpet, *Thera britannica*

Bordered Pug, *Eupithecia succenturiata*

Treble-bar, *Aplocera plagiata*

Latticed Heath, *Ematurga atomaria*

Mottled Beauty, *Alcis rependata*

Black-veined moth, *Siona lineata*

Marbled Brown, *Drymonia dodonaea*

Pale Tussock, *Calliteara pudibunda*

Gypsy Moth, *Lymantria dispar*

White Ermine, *Spilosoma lubricipeda*

Light Feathered Rustic, *Agrotis cinerea*

Setaceous Hebrew Character, *Xestia c-nigrum*

Shears, *Had plebeja*

Pale Shining Brown, *Pala bombycina*

Broad-barred White, *Hecatera bicolorata*

Shoulder-striped Wainscot, *Mythimna comma*

Treble-lines, *Charanyca trigrammatica*

Burnished Brass, *Diachrysis chrysitis*

## Dragonflies & damselfly

Beautiful Demoiselle, *Calopteryx virgo*

Blue-tailed Damselfly, *Ischnura pumilio*

White-tailed Skimmer, *Orthetrum cancellatum*

Azure Damselfly, *Enallagma cyathigerum*

Broad-bodied Chaser, *Libellula fulva*

Norfolk Hawker, *Aeshna isoceles*

## Mammals

Common Mole, *Talpa europaea*

Red Fox, *Vulpes vulpes*

Brown Bear, *Ursus arctos*

Chamois, *Rupicapra rupicapra*

## Reptiles & Amphibians

Sand Lizard, <i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Slow Worm, <i>Anguis fragilis</i>	Grass Snake, <i>Natrix natrix</i>
Common Toad, <i>Bufo bufo</i>	Common Frog, <i>Rana temporaria</i>	Marsh Frog, <i>Rana ridibunda</i>
Yellow-bellied Toad, <i>Bombina variegata</i>		

## Plants

This region is very rich in plant life, largely due to its traditional methods of farming and non-use of chemicals. The following is a **selection** of wildflowers seen and identified during our holiday. Thanks to other knowledgeable and keen-eyed members of our party who made valuable contributions.

Anyone who wishes to explore further can visit an excellent website run by **Collaboratores Florae Romaniae** (try typing “contributors to the flora of Romania – flora of Transylvania” into your **Search**). Here you can access a comprehensive list of wildflower species and tick on them to see photographs.

### Apiaceae

*Astrantia major* Great Masterwort or Mountain Sanicle

### Asclepiadaceae

*Vincetoxicum hirundinaria* Swallow-wort

### Asteraceae

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burdock
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser Burdock
<i>Doronicum columnae</i>	Leopardsbane
<i>Arnica Montana</i>	Mountain Arnica
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Tall One-flowered Daisy
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	Wetted Thistle
<i>Cirsium eristhales</i>	Yellow Melancholy Thistle
<i>Cirsium rivulare</i>	Brook Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	Orange Hawkweed
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye Daisy
<i>Petasites albus</i>	White Butterbur (leaves)
<i>Scorzonera rosea</i>	Rosy Viper's-grass
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed

### Boraginaceae

<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Myosotis alpestris</i>	Alpine Wood Forget-me-not
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey
<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	Common Gromwell

**Brassicaceae**

<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard
<i>Erysimum decumbens</i>	Decumbent Treacle-mustard

**Campanulaceae**

<i>Campanula patula</i>	Spreading Bellflower
<i>Campanula persicifolia</i>	Peach-leaved Bellflower
<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Spiked Rampion

**Caprifoliaceae**

<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Common Elder
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	Red-berried Elder

**Caryophyllaceae**

<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corn Cockle
<i>Cerastium alpinum</i>	Alpine Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>	Carthusian Pink
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin
<i>Lychnis viscaria</i>	Sticky Catchfly
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham Catchfly
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	Wood Stitchwort

**Cistaceae**

<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common Rockrose
---------------------------------	-----------------

**Dipsacaceae**

<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious
<i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i>	Cream Scabious

**Fabaceae**

<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Common Kidney Vetch
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot Trefoil
<i>Lotus uliginosus</i>	Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil
<i>Genista sagittalis</i>	Winged Greenweed
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick
<i>Onobrychis vicifolia</i>	Sainfoin
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium montanum</i>	Mountain Clover
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted Vetch
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch

**Gentianaceae**

<i>Gentiana utriculosa</i>	Bladder Gentian
----------------------------	-----------------

**Geraniaceae**

<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	Dusky Cranesbill
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Cranesbill

**Hypericaceae**

*Hypericum maculatum* Imperforate St. John's Wort

**Lamiaceae**

*Acinos alpinus* Alpine Calamint  
*Ajuga reptans* Common Bugle  
*Ajuga genevensis* Blue Bugle  
*Lamiaeum galeobdolon* Yellow Archangel  
*Lamium album* White Dead Nettle  
*Lamium purpureum* Red Dead Nettle  
*Mentha aquatica* Water Mint  
*Prunella vulgaris* Self-heal  
*Salvia glutinosa* Sticky Sage  
*Salvia pratensis* Meadow Clary  
*Salvia verticillata* Whorled Clary  
*Stachys officinalis* Betony  
*Stachys sylvatica* Hedge Woundwort

**Linaceae**

*Linum catharticum* Fairy Flax  
*Linum perenne* Perennial Flax

**Papaveraceae**

*Chelidonium majus* Greater Celandine  
*Papaver rhoeas* Common Poppy

**Polygalaceae**

*Polygala vulgaris* Common Milkwort

**Polygonaceae**

*Persicaria bistorta* Bistort  
*Polygonum viviparum* Alpine Bistort

**Primulaceae**

*Anagallis arvensis* Scarlet Pimpernel  
*Cortusa matthiola* Alpine Bells  
*Primula veris* Cowslip (leaves)

**Ranunculaceae**

*Clematis vitalba* Traveller's Joy  
*Thalictrum aquilegifolium* Great Meadow Rue  
*Trollius europaeus* Globeflower  
*Aconitum vulparia* Wolfsbane  
*Aquilegia vulgaris* Columbine

**Resedaceae**

*Reseda lutea* Wild Mignonette

**Rosaceae**

*Filipendula vulgaris* Dropwort  
*Fragaria vesca* Wild Strawberry  
*Geum urbanum* Herb Bennet  
*Potentilla anserina* Silverweed  
*Potentilla erecta* Tormentil  
*Potentilla reptans* Creeping Cinquefoil

<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose
<i>Rosa pendulina</i>	Alpine Rose
<i>Rosa rubrifolia</i>	Blue-leaved Rose
<i>Spiraea chamaedryfolia</i>	Elm-leaved Spiraea
<b>Rubiaceae</b>	
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Common Cleavers
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Woodruff
<i>Galium verum</i>	Ladies Bedstraw
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	
<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>	Large Yellow Foxglove
<i>Euphrasia rostkoviana</i>	Eyebright
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Common Toadflax
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat
<i>Melampyrum bihariense</i>	Purple-crested Cow Wheat
<i>Pedicularis ascendens</i>	Ascending Lousewort
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Common Figwort
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon
<i>Verbascum chaixii ssp.austriacum</i>	Mullein species
<b>Valerianaceae</b>	
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian
<b>Violaceae</b>	
<i>Viola lutea</i>	Mountain Pansy
<i>Viola dacica</i>	Pansy (local species)
<b>Iridaceae</b>	
<i>Iris reichenbachii</i>	Iris species ( <i>seen at top of gorge</i> )
<i>Iris sibirica</i>	Siberian Iris ( <i>fish lakes</i> )
<b>Liliaceae</b>	
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Autumn Crocus (leaves)
<i>Veratrum album</i>	White False Helleborine
<b>Orchidaceae</b>	
<i>Dactylorhiza cordigera</i>	Heart-shaped Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid
<i>Listera ovata</i>	Twayblade
<i>Orchis coriophora</i>	Bug Orchid
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid
<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt Orchid
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military Orchid ( <i>a super find</i> )
<i>Traunsteinera globosa</i>	Round-headed Orchid
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	Lesser Butterfly Orchid
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Bird's Nest Orchid



## 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 [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!