

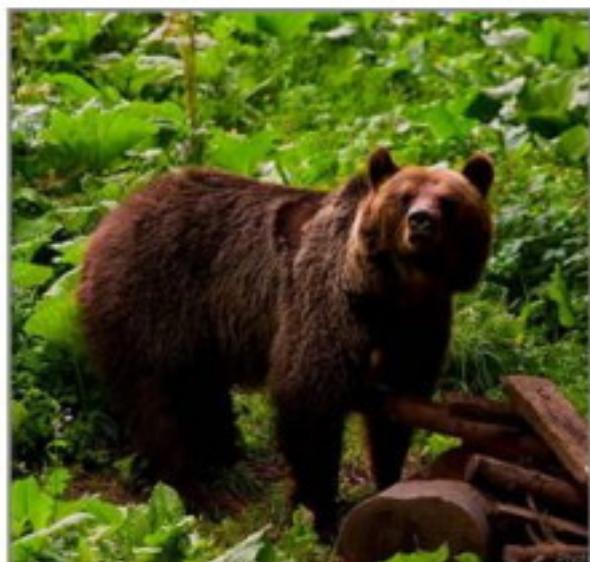
Honeyguide

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ROMANIA

The Danube Delta, Dobrogea and the Carpathians
4 – 11/15 June 2011

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Danube Delta only

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Danube Delta and the Carpathians

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From the Ibis team:

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<http://www.ibis-tours.ro/>

Daily diaries by Jeremy Walsh (the Danube Delta and Dobrogea) and Richard Attenborrow (the Carpathians).

More information about Bran Castle is on www.bran-castle.com

Photos edged grey by Daniel Petrescu from Ibis and used with his permission.

For more of Daniel's photos see <http://danielpetrescu.ro/>

Photos edged red by Cedric, green by Sue, blue by Val and edged yellow by Richard.

Wallcreeper photo on page 16 from Honeyguide archive.

Front cover – pelicans on the delta; poppies and larkspur in Babadag;
brown bear in the Carpathians.

Below – the last evening on the houseboat.

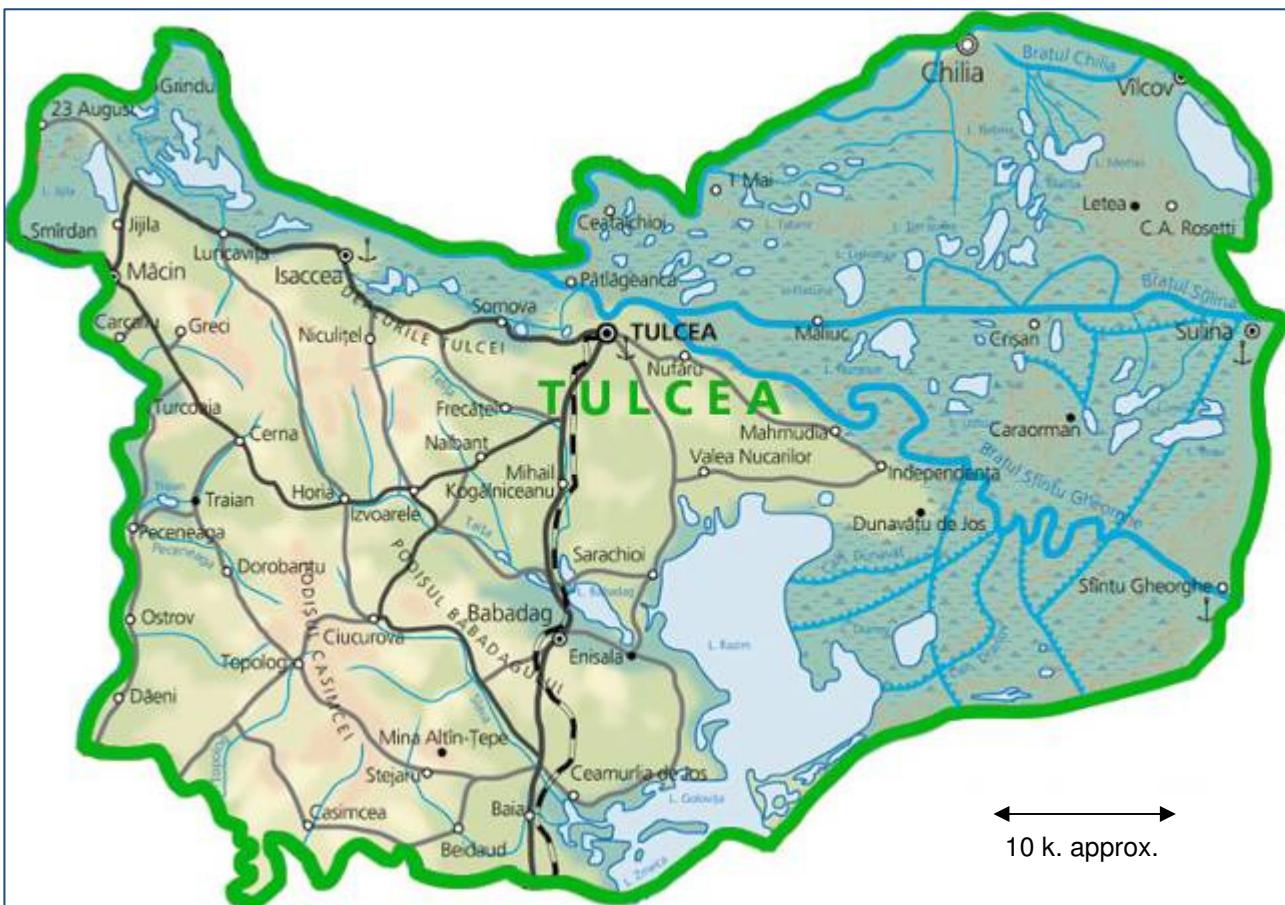


As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price was put towards a local conservation project, in this case for Falco Cherrug ('the saker'), a young naturalists' group which is providing the delta's conservationists for the future. The group is run by Eugen Petrescu, the Romanian Ornithological Society's representative in the delta and one of our holiday leaders from Ibis.

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, resulting in a donation of £603 (€670). This donation brings the total given in Romania since the first Honeyguide holiday here in 1999 to £5,347. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £72,591 by June 2011.

THE DANUBE DELTA and DOBROGEA

4 - 11 June 2011



Saturday, 4th June

Not too early a start, with the taxi at 6.30. With an easy journey to Luton Airport, we arrived by 8.30, checked in soon afterwards, and had plenty of time for coffee or breakfast. Sandwiches for the journey were available from M & S, and at 11.30 we were taking off. Wizz Air operates throughout Eastern Europe, including Luton-Bucharest. It's certainly a 'no-frills' airline, and with little leg-room and fixed seats, it's clear that comfort is not their top consideration. Fortunately we had some delightful Romanian girls to look after us, and with sleep, sandwiches, coffee and chat, the time passed quite quickly, and we landed at Bucharest at 2.15. Time to put our watches forward a couple of hours, for it was 4.15 their time. Luggage arrived very quickly, and Eugen Petrescu was there to meet us, with a minibus and trailer for the luggage.

Not too much to excite us on the journey, but Eugen soon initiated a discussion about the birds we hoped to see (and those we might not). For many miles we saw only collared doves and feral pigeons, and we were glad to find a small flock of white storks feeding in the fields near the roadside - immature non-breeders. Further on, in various villages, we saw adults standing on their massive telegraph-pole nests, sometimes with young peering over the edge, and often with sparrows nesting beneath them.

A comfort stop at Slobozia produced an Eastern variant of jackdaw, with an almost white head. Rollers were to be seen on many wires, though in the fading light we hardly saw them at their colourful best - that was to come. Threatening clouds and distant lightning soon developed into a full-blown thunderstorm with driving rain, but it passed, and around 10 we arrived at Tulcea, and our floating Ibis hotel. Time for a quick survey of our rooms and a wash, our luggage was brought down, and an excellent supper was waiting for us, with a chance to meet the rest of the group. By 11.30 it was certainly time for bed.

Sunday, 5th June

Sunday, and the Angelus ringing from the church across the river coincided with our call to breakfast. Then we left the floating hotel (which would rendezvous with us somewhere down river later in the day) and set off in a much smaller boat for our first cruise around the Delta. From Tulcea the Danube divides into three, and we went down the Sulina Branch, the middle of the three. Once we turned out of the main channel, the banks were lined with fishermen, enjoying a sunny weekend (but is bright sunshine good for fishing?) We were soon aware of little egrets, more or less everywhere, and when the engine was switched off we listened for warblers, mainly blackcap, garden warbler and chiffchaff, along with nightingale and/or thrush nightingale – let the experts distinguish!



Exploring side channels on the small boat.

It wasn't long before a great cloud of white pelicans came into view, the sun shining brightly on their wings as they circled together, looking for a good place to fish. They were one of the great Delta spectacles - a most impressive sight, wheeling to and fro. More herons and egrets appeared, including some night herons with darker backs, only recently fledged. Then great white egrets, glossy ibis, and squacco - the first of many. Pygmy cormorants flew quickly by in small flocks, and a kingfisher gave a wonderful display right in front of us. The number of birds was simply breathtaking.

Identification was not always so easy - it took us some time to find the distant nest of a white-tailed eagle, with a parent bird nearby, and the fluty notes of golden oriole challenged us to "find that bird", but almost all of them eluded us. By then we had reached an open area of the Delta, where whiskered terns wheeled and dipped over their nesting area. A great crested grebe was seen among the reeds, but there was greater excitement when we saw a pair of red-necked grebes, one of them on its nest. It was lovely to see these birds in their summer plumage - something we seldom see at home.

Cuckoos flew across, including a bubbling female, and today the rollers were brilliant as the bright sunlight lit up their glorious colours. One of them flew into a tree, dislodging a very different bird, a black woodpecker, which is not the easiest bird to find. As we continued on, great reed warblers shouted at us from many of the banks, we found a couple of spoonbills feeding, and watched a marsh harrier hunting over the reeds. A speciality of the Delta is Dalmatian pelican, darker than their white relatives, and we were pleased when we found the first of them.



The darker-winged bird is a Dalmatian pelican, among a flock of whites.

Birds were not our only preoccupation. We watched innumerable dragon- and damsel-flies, among them banded and beautiful demoiselles, and skulking under the bank we had a brief glimpse of a muskrat. The morning passed extremely quickly, with many birds familiar at home also around, like mallard, pochard, gadwall and greylag geese. A white stork flew up as we reached our floating hotel and then it was time for lunch - no snack, but a full-blown meal. The siesta time that followed was very welcome.

We were moored near the village of Maliuc, and at 5 o'clock we reassembled for a walk. Opposite our mooring a pair of common redstarts was nesting in a drainpipe on a block of flats, and we spent some time chasing a grey-headed woodpecker. Eugen played its call many times, but for some time it refused to respond, though in the end we all saw it well. Several purple herons flew over, tree sparrows were around, and eventually we all had a reasonable view of an olivaceous warbler. Fire-bellied toads called out, marsh frogs were much in evidence, and a terrapin had to be encouraged back to water. The butterfly of the day was undoubtedly a Freyer's purple emperor, which took some identifying.

As we ended a wonderful first day in the Delta, enjoying another excellent meal and a glass or two of wine, our boat was moved a little further downstream, and we moored in an isolated spot, with only marsh and other frogs for company. They kept some awake, and lulled the rest of us to sleep.

Monday, 6th June

If cuckoos are in short supply back home, that's not the case in the Delta, and from the early hours the call of the cuckoo outdid even the constant croaking of the frogs. Then at breakfast we heard the soft notes of a hoopoe, though it wasn't until much later in the day that anyone saw one. Watching great spotted and black woodpeckers from the hotel boat encouraged a search for others when we set out in the little boat to explore another area of the Delta, but we had no further success.

Today we went south towards Caraorman, where there is a large nature reserve managed by the Ornithological Society of Romania, with which Eugen is very much involved. A feature of the first day had been the number of little egrets - they seemed to be everywhere. Today it was the turn of the squacco heron, which was even more ubiquitous. One might almost say that the day belonged to herons. Grey and purple, night and squacco herons, along with great white and little egrets - we found them along every stretch of the waterways. But the lakes also introduced us to ferruginous ducks and a variety of grebes, and one particular lake held even greater excitement - Pallas's gulls (greater black-headed) which were a first for most of us. Four of them stood head and shoulders above the other gulls around them, their big black heads making them easy to pick out.

By lunchtime we had reached the reserve at Caraorman, and were able to land without getting even our feet wet! From the tower hide we saw black-headed grebes, one on its nest. We watched a hooded crow appear, mobbed vigorously by whiskered terns. Despite this, it succeeded in pinching an egg from the grebe's nest, and we saw the egg in its bill as it made off with it. It made us wonder what chance some of the little birds have with such determined predators around.

It was also a day for waders. At first there was the occasional lapwing, but further on we came across small flocks of black-tailed godwits, resplendent in their summer plumage, the like of which we don't often see at home. Later we went on shore again to see a deserted village, relic of an ill-founded Ceausescu project to exploit the resources of the Delta. It also proved to be another birding opportunity! In some lakes beyond the village we found black-winged stilt, greenshank, avocet and a little stint, along with a small group of Caspian terns, and around the village itself there was a pair of black redstarts, probably nesting on one of the ruined buildings.

It was soon time to return to the little boat. We had been out in it all day, with a picnic lunch to keep us going, and after leaving the deserted village we were taken back to the houseboat. The variety of birds had been amazing, and we had seen an extraordinary total of 85 species. There was time for a shower and a beer before dinner, but not before the whirring of a Savi's warbler had caught our attention. Birding never seemed to stop!

Tuesday, 7th June

Another glorious day dawned, and today the incessant croaking of frogs gave way (for those who were up earliest) to the equally incessant whirring of the Savi's warbler, very close to the boat. It didn't stay there, so for the rest of us the Savi's was just audible a very long way away, or just visible through a telescope - a tiny dash of white at the top of some reeds, standing out against the greens and browns. Pelicans were flying over, too, their V-formation reflected in the still water. They formed a great sight. There were bearded tits, along with cuckoos, and squacco herons were on a patch of water lilies in the lake, though by now we were getting rather blasé about them.

After breakfast we got into the smaller boat again and set off on our final cruise around the narrower channels of the Delta. The first excitement was the sight of a pair of red-footed falcons, caught in the act of mating. The female turned her head and looked at us with an air of disapproval. Hadn't we any respect for a couple's privacy? They were the first of many red-foots, for they nest communally in a rookery, taking over the rooks' disused nests. Falcons and rooks seemed to cohabit without rancour.

Night herons were common, and there were numerous rollers. A lesser whitethroat sang in some bushes, we chased green sandpipers along the channel, and corn bunting sang from the edge of the fields. These fields formed part of a very large area in the northern part of the Delta which had been despoiled by the communist regime. It was intended to be used as an area for agriculture, but the project was not very successful. We passed a small monastery, Romanian Orthodox, and a few houses. It was here that golden orioles at last revealed themselves, as did some hoopoes.

We added sedge warbler to our list – a little bird clinging to some reeds a long way off, and singing a scratchy and not very memorable song. Not that its fellow sedge warblers would have thought so! This part of our journey was halted by a dredger which completely blocked the channel, so we had to turn back; there was no way round it. We had missed visiting another lake, but there was a silver lining to the cloud - several, in fact. First was the sight of a couple of lesser grey shrikes, then another black woodpecker appeared (we had done well for them), a nightingale sang, a little grebe called, and finally a little bittern flew alongside the boat for quite a distance before disappearing into the reeds. We could not have had a better view.

The water in the Delta was at a very low level, and in places the boat got through the weed only with difficulty. At one point the engine actually stopped, but fortunately we didn't have to get out the punt pole. Our last port of call was a large lake where there was evidence of many fishing nets. A fisherman addressed us, and the message seemed clear: "Don't mess about with my nets". On the far side of the lake were many hundreds of white pelicans, some on the lake, but many in the air - a tremendous sight. All along the channels this morning there were mating dragonflies, and a striking scarlet darter. A muskrat crossed our path, someone spotted a grass snake in the water, and there was a multitude of frogs, green and edible.

So to lunch, back on our floating hotel, and even as we began to eat, the tug was connected up and we set out on the journey back to Tulcea. Instead of using the main Danube channel, we were taken along the byways. If the birding was less exciting, the scenery was beautiful, and we enjoyed a restful afternoon, the peace enlivened only by some magnificent white-tailed eagles. It was an ideal way to end this part of our holiday, and we spent a final night on the houseboat before moving to the Ibis hotel in Tulcea which was to be our base for the next three days.

Wednesday, 8th June

We left the houseboat after saying goodbye to Daniela, who has looked after us so well. Our luggage was taken direct to the hotel, while we set off for our first day in Dobrogea, which means "the land between the river and the sea". It's a steppe area, partly agricultural, partly open country.

Not far out of Tulcea we stopped at a quarry, where some of us spotted a pied wheatear. However, this sighting was eclipsed immediately by the arrival of a long-legged buzzard which was nesting there. It was so close that we could appreciate many of its plumage features, especially the pink tail. A suslik was seen trying to make itself scarce - they form the preferred diet of long-legged buzzards. More common wheatears (northern) were around, but we never saw the pied again that morning. Nearby was a small colony of bee-eaters at their nest site, and a hoopoe called.



Arriving at the Ibis hotel in Tulcea

At our next stop we listened to a lesser whitethroat singing, and tried to identify some of the many butterflies. These nearly proved a disaster for one of our number, for in trying to net one she put her camera down in the grass and forgot to pick it up again. There it lay as we moved to our next port of call. Happily we hadn't gone too far on, the mistake quickly came to light, the bus went back, and there was the camera. Crisis over!

While we waited for the bus to return, the rest of us watched an ortolan bunting and learned its "Beethoven" call: "Dot, dot, dot, dash", from the 5th Symphony. A woodlark and a lesser grey shrike were well observed and for some there were brief glimpses of honey buzzard and Levant sparrowhawk. Like the Grand Old Duke of York, we had a longish walk up to the top of the hill and down again, but barred warbler failed to appear, despite much effort. We were glad to get back to the bus and a very good picnic lunch. As always

on these occasions, the peace of lunch was shattered by someone noticing a new bird – this time it was cries of "sombre tit". Some rushed off to see it, while others stayed to finish their lunch and were suitably smug when it proved only to be a great tit!

Today's excursion did not take us far from Tulcea, and after a short drive from our lunch stop we came to the village of Celic Dere, site of a nunnery. There was a village shop with very welcome ice-creams. On a walk up through a wood we watched a hawfinch drinking from a puddle on the path, saw a blackcap doing the same at a little stream, and found a pair of spotted flycatchers which reminded us of how much we miss them back home these days. Few of us saw the sombre tit, and there was no Syrian woodpecker, though the distinction between Syrian and great spotted would probably have eluded most of us anyway.

The long, hot and sticky day did have two more rewards in store, however. A young middle spotted woodpecker perched high in a tree, and a wryneck visited its nest-hole most obligingly. It had been called up by a recording of its own song, and when it found the amplifier at the base of the tree, it investigated it with complete mystification, doubtless glad when the intruder was removed.

And so to the Ibis hotel in Tulcea, where we found our luggage awaiting us, and a very good meal.

Thursday, 9th June

One can only admire the stamina of the dogs of Tulcea. They were barking when we went to bed and they were still barking when it was time to get up. The day dawned cloudy, with a forecast of rain in the afternoon. In fact the rain came early - a sharp, heavy shower as we were driving south towards Babadag - and the rest of the day was mainly sunny, hot and humid.

We were joined today by Mihai Petrescu, an expert botanist but also well versed in local history and geology, which he spoke about as we drove south. Our first birding stop showed us some stone curlews, presumably at their nest and as passive as they are in the UK, along with calandra lark, short-toed lark and tawny pipit. There were several black-headed wagtails, still listed as a sub-species of yellow but evidently likely to be given 'species' status before long. Isabelline wheatear also appeared - a bird that we seemed to see at intervals throughout the day. We drove further on towards Babadag and stopped for coffee, after which the group divided - birders with Eugen and botanists with Mihai. The botanists probably had the better of it, under Mihai's guidance - violet birds-nest orchid was among their finds.

The birders walked up through the woods, hoping to see wood warbler among others, but it was just too late in the year and all the warblers had stopped singing and declined to appear. The one bird that we heard was red-breasted flycatcher, and that only briefly; one or two caught a glimpse of it high up among the branches. Then the birders set off south, listening to nightingale and/or thrush nightingale as they went; once again the experts were undecided. At the end of the wood the path opened up to a view over the plain beyond. Quail called and one was flushed, Levant sparrowhawk gave those who missed out yesterday a chance to see it, and turtle doves flew across.



Botanising with Mihai



Enisala castle – a 13th century fortress.

Meanwhile the botanists had been hard at work, finding a variety of plants including pyramidal orchid and Siberian bellflower, with a large number of lesser emperor dragonflies and a cardinal butterfly. After another excellent picnic lunch we drove on, and stopping near a quarry found a black-headed bunting on a wire - a rare sighting for this area, being a bird of Turkey and Bulgaria.

Our route back towards Tulcea took us on a circular tour, looking out over fishing lagoons to see Caspian tern and Caspian gulls. At one place we were not made welcome - "more than my job's worth" was the interpretation put on the gate-keeper's insistence that we should leave - but he couldn't prevent us looking up to enjoy the sight of a booted eagle just above our heads.

Last but not least was the little owl, sitting in a large nest-hole in a cliff (though it took most of us an age to find it - there were a great many holes in that cliff!) A final stop at the ruined castle at Enisala completed the day.

Friday, 10th June

For our final day in Dobrogea we retraced our journey of yesterday, driving down through Babadag towards ancient Istria. We passed several fields full of poppies and larkspur, looking rather like a Monet painting. We stopped at a field of young sunflower plants and found a large flock of collared pratincoles. When they began nesting the sunflowers would have been very small; we wondered how the birds would get on when the plants rose high above the nests. It was amazing to see so many of these elegant birds.

Driving through a huge reedbed, we found harvesting under way, and walked along a lake where there were numerous waders. Eugen was constantly calling out "marsh sandpiper here, little stint there, look at the red-crested pochard"! It was hard to keep up with it all, but most of us saw most of the birds, though identification became a bit confused when we were told to "look at the bird with a broken leg". There were actually two such birds! The star of this particular show was a broad-billed sandpiper, though two summery red curlew sandpipers ran it pretty close.

We saw several notable birds this day. At another reedbed Eugen tried to find us a paddyfield warbler, playing its song over and over again, and just when it seemed to elude us we had a couple of brief glimpses. Rather easier to see were the two eagles - lesser spotted and short-toed - soaring high above us. We watched a bittern flying across, and even a black stork, comparatively uncommon compared with its white relatives.

The day included a brief visit to Istria, site of an ancient Greek settlement, and to Cheile Dobrogea, a gorge with some very unusual and remarkable stone formations. Birding here, too, of course, catching up with the elusive pied wheatear. It was the only time we got caught by a rain shower during the trip.

Back at the hotel we had little time to shower and change, for there was to be a presentation. Four girls and their teacher had come from a local bird-watching group to receive several pair of binoculars donated by Honeyguiders, and Eugen, representing the Romanian Ornithological Society, received a cheque for €670, this year's conservation contribution from all our bookings. It was good to see the enthusiasm of the girls and to feel that we were able to help them in this way.

On this last evening in the Delta we were treated to an evening of bubbly, music and dancing to the sound of a variety of traditional instruments, skilfully played by two local music teachers.



Entertainment on the last evening in Tulcea.

Saturday, 11th June

The group divided today, some to return home, the others to explore the Carpathians. With our flight very late in the day, those of us returning home had the chance of a final morning's birding with Eugen.

We set off east, roughly along the southernmost channel of the Danube - the St. George's Branch. Eugen was still very keen to find us a Syrian woodpecker, and at the top of a hill devoted mainly to aerials and mobile phone masts he at last got one to appear. We had an excellent view as it clung to a low bush and then flew to a telegraph pole. Its distinctly white face made us believe we could actually distinguish it from great spotted! We had a very good morning, especially for raptors, seeing booted eagle again, honey buzzard, marsh harrier and kestrel, but the outstanding sight of the morning was a flock of Mediterranean gulls. On a lake, spread out along a low island, were around a hundred of them. Finding a black-headed gull among them was as difficult as finding a Med. gull among the black-headed at Minsmere! A couple of Pallas's gulls completed the picture.

Then it was time to return to the hotel for lunch and packing. Some had a quick look around Tulcea, and two lost their way back to the hotel, arriving somewhat breathless just in time for our departure. Ten minutes into the journey there was a phone call from the hotel - someone had forgotten to hand in their key!

One bird that we hadn't seen was ruddy shelduck and, in a last throw, our driver to Bucharest at one point took us on a short detour to a lake said to hold 500. It was a lovely afternoon, and the view of the lake was beautiful, but looking into the sun without a telescope gave us little chance of seeing the birds.

On then to the airport, at one stage running into driving rain. It had been a good journey, as had the whole trip. The airport was chaotic, with signs of rebuilding everywhere, but we checked our cases in and just managed to find some seats near the departure gate; it wasn't long before we boarded, taking off very punctually shortly before midnight. We had clocked up 157 bird species.

THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

11 – 15 June 2011



Saturday, 11th June: Transfer from Tulcea to Pensiunea Elena in Zarnesti

We said goodbye to the delights of Tulcea and the Danube Delta with a reasonably early start on Saturday morning. The weather was thankfully cool and Dmitry, our driver, set off at some pace through the agricultural land bordering the Bucharest road. Lunch was at a poplar plantation, where we ate to the sound of crows and golden orioles.

Once we'd turned north, the landscape started to change and the Carpathian Mountains loomed in the distance. The further up the Prahova Valley we went, the more touristy places became, particularly in Sinaia, where there were craft stalls selling the usual, but with an unexpected penchant for garden gnomes which were nearly as tasteful as Canadian yard art. The road followed both river and railway. Constant observation of both brought no dipper, but was rewarded with a rather fine steam locomotive. Less exciting were the gloomy blocks of flats and remnants of factories. Rasnov was an interesting-looking town, presumably the Romanian Hollywood as it has its name in big white letters on a hillside under a castle (as indeed does Brasov).

Having made excellent time thanks to Dmitry's fast but careful driving, we reached Zarnesti, our base for the next three days. Pensiunea Elena is on a dusty, unmade road, next to some of the aforementioned depressing flats. However, once inside, we couldn't have been more warmly welcomed by Gigi (Gheorghe) our host, and had tea and cakes straight from the oven, having settled into our comfortable rooms. We learned from Gigi that the flats were part of a Soviet-time plan to amalgamate three villages, with extra flats to house workers at three factories (paper, munitions and logs).

Our dinner was the first of many culinary delights and we had recovered from the journey enough to venture out in search of the adjacent flower meadows. Everyone we met was really friendly, even the noisy dogs wagged their tails. The view up the valley was breathtaking and, although damp from recent rain, the meadow held promise of rich pickings (not literally) for the botanists.

Sunday, 12th June: Zarnesti meadow and Strimba

Fully recovered from the journey we set off on a pre-breakfast walk to the same meadows as last night. The enthusiastic barking dogs were still there to be greeted by Andrew's Barbara Woodhouse impersonation. Unfortunately the creatures had never heard of her, so carried on as loud as before. It was lovely to see the first swifts of the journey to remind us of home and send us in to our excellent buffet breakfast, which also provided the makings of our packed lunch.

The morning then consisted of a short drive to some wonderful meadows just outside the village. These were damp from the previous night's rain, but full of orchids and other plants as well as black-veined white moths and a confiding yellowhammer. A nutcracker was then seen on top of a conifer as well as a pair of displaying honey buzzards in the sky. Thence back to the hotel, past the impressive new visitors' centre which is under construction, for a cooked meal, which was a pleasant surprise for those of us who didn't realise the sandwiches were for tea. Time for an afternoon siesta before the long drive up the Strimba Valley to the bears.

The roads here became more and more primitive and muddy after recent rain and even the skilful Dmitry could take us no further in the bus, so we were ferried in two instalments in Bogdan's 4-track as far as the warden's hut. We sat there next to a pool watching broad-bodied chasers and grey wagtails as the resident cats eyed us curiously. A short walk up the road brought singing marsh tits, a confiding red-backed shrike and two butterfly highlights: a grizzled skipper and a poplar admiral. What a sensational beast that is, admired by all until it started raining stair-rods and we retreated to shelter to await our transport to the bear-watching hide. The rain had, of course, turned the already soggy roads into a quagmire, so we were grateful once again for Bogdan's driving skills. Then across a fast-flowing stream on a rickety bridge to the hide.

We watched with interest as the warden filled various containers with food and then covered it over to give the bears a bit of a challenge. We were eventually rewarded with the sight of up to nine animals including two-year-old triplets (quite unusual, evidently), which stayed in the clearing for quite some time. Most of us have read that bears can climb trees, but that doesn't prepare you for how fast and agile they are. It was also interesting see how dexterous and delicate they are in removing obstacles to get at food. It was quite fascinating and as an added bonus several people saw bats and a wolf as well. Tired but satisfied, we negotiated the slippery steps and narrow bridge in the dark, before the challenging journey back to the bus, again negotiated superbly by Bogdan.

Monday, 13th June: Zarnesti Gorge, Magura village

There was a threat of rain today but undeterred we set out for Zarnesti Gorge, pausing only to admire a dipper and a smart trotting horse and carriage. Could the latter have been Prince Philip on his holidays? The gorge itself, as well as being long and spectacular, had a large population of grey wagtails many of which were feeding young, and gave us wonderful 'scope views of chamois on the seemingly vertical rock face. There are cliff faces here used by climbers and a notice detailing the climbs, included the perplexing "Italy (trans-sexual)". One climbing wall produced one of the sensations of the trip – a wallcreeper, which stayed in view quite low down for about 15 minutes, flashing carmine at us. Bogdan told us that the nest was further up and, sure enough, a lady photographer was camped opposite waiting for emergence. Andrew predicted that it wouldn't hang about near the nest, and, needless to say, it emerged from a crack in the rock and shot away in a flurry of grey and pink. The sun was starting to emerge now, bringing with it a flutter of



On the way to the bears.

butterflies including mountain argus. The sun also brought the crowds, many of them children, eager to enjoy the gorgeous gorge. We made our way back down, noting that the creepers on the wall were now members of the mountain police practicing. We took lunch by a stream with icy water to wash our hands in and walked up to Magura village. This was a place with spectacular views, lovely flower meadows and lots of new houses. Evidently you can build one for €30,000.



Walking up to Magura.



Magura village in Piatra Craiului National Park.

Highlights of this lovely walk were displaying tree pipits, fieldfares, alpine swifts and a short-toed eagle in classic hovering pose, then diving and emerging with a snake in its beak. We also admired the balance and tenacity of a horse grazing on the near vertical hillside. We returned to the hotel to cups of tea all round, before devouring a gourmet's delight of meatballs followed by rhubarb cake.

Tuesday, 14th June: Bran Castle, Zarnesti Valley

This was our tourism day; however the first thing that awaited us was a flock of crossbills in the park where we emerged from the bus. Uplifted by this, we toured Bran Castle, once home to Vlad Tepes, popularly known as Vlad the Impaler, supposedly the origin of the Dracula myth. Be that as it may, the castle was a fascinating place, well worth fighting our way through the several large parties touring round. Built on the side of a steep cliff to make it impregnable from the outside, inside it has a series of Gormenghast-like corridors, courtyards and strange shaped rooms full of heavy furniture, suits of armour and even a piece of early film showing royalty on parade. The grounds of the castle proved an unexpected delight as the trees were full of small birds including hawfinches, short-toed treecreeper, nuthatch and serin as well as red squirrels and a torpid and very large common toad on the edge of a path. Outside, amongst the tacky craft stalls, there were some selling delicious local cheeses, which some bought to take home.

In the afternoon we went further up one of the valleys near Zarnesti where we found lots of new butterflies, including Hungarian glider, and also buzzards displaying as the male offered a snake to the female. Excitement came in the form of a herd of feral pigs, including one little fellow who got separated and started to run in circles squealing piteously (most of us feel like that after a hard day at the office).

Wednesday, 15th June: Zarnesti Valley, Brasov, Baneasa airport

A leisurely breakfast was followed by a stroll in another part of Sunday's valley. Sunny weather brought out the butterflies, several new for the trip. The meadows were chock-full of orchids and honey buzzards displaying made for a great last hurrah. As our plane didn't go till midnight we'd negotiated with Gigi for a bowl of soup before we left. We'd been looked after so well, we shouldn't have been surprised when a delicious cooked main course followed the soup. Afterwards, the long drive to Bucharest was punctuated by a traffic jam and a visit to the busy university town of Brasov, where Bogdan went to school. It has a population of 350,000 with a small medieval centre including the Black Church, so called because of walls blackened by fire in 1689. At Baneasa we said goodbye to Bogdan and Dmitry who had guided and driven so well and settled down for the four-hour wait in the overcrowded departure lounge. Even this couldn't dampen our spirits after a fabulous holiday full of unexpected delights.

SYSTEMATIC LISTS

Key

DD = Danube Delta
Do = Dobrogea

C = Carpathian mountains
J = Journeys

BIRDS

Birds of Dobrogea, the Danube Delta and the Carpathians

* Only seen in the Carpathians

Mute Swan	Herds seen in many places.
Greylag Goose	Some had young.
Shelduck	Plentiful in suitable habitat.
Mallard	Common.
Gadwall	Numerous.
Shoveler	Noted on the long lagoon before the shepherd walked his flock across the breeding ground.
Teal	One only.
Garganey	One lone male from the boat until on the return journey to Tulcea a flight of 14 delighted.
Pochard	Common.
Red-crested Pochard	Several moderate views.
Ferruginous Duck	The white eye was seen clearly on several occasions.
Quail	Heard by all but only seen by the lone flusher.
Pheasant	Easily recognised.
Black-necked Grebe	Breeding pairs noted.
Little Grebe	Seen and heard in places.
Great-crested Grebe	Common.
Red-necked Grebe	Seen with young.
White Pelican	When several hundred of these 16 lb. birds with nine-foot wing spans soar and flap towards you the Delta takes its rightful place in your mind as Europe's finest reserve.
Dalmatian Pelican	Much less gregarious and numerous than the previous species, each sighting was senatorially greeted by Eugen.
Cormorant	Obvious flying and drying.
Pygmy Cormorant	Fast wing beat was soon noted.
Bittern	Three long sightings in a few minutes at Istria excited all.
Little Bittern	10 flight views plus one percher.
Night Heron	A profusion in all plumages.
Squacco Heron	In places seemed to be everywhere.
Little Egret	Now it is one of ours can be seen without comment.
Great Egret	Slow flapping with a bluish bill if ready to breed.
Grey Heron	Common.
Purple Heron	When standing with neck upright it can look darter-like.
White Stork	Often had three or four prominent young in the nest.
Black Stork	One excellent overhead bird.
Glossy Ibis	When seen well the gloss was scintillating.
Spoonbill	A few seen.
White-tailed Eagle	Several seen on the steam back to Tulcea.
Lesser Spotted Eagle	A couple showed well on the road to Istria.
Short-toed Eagle	One at the same spot as the previous species and another carrying a snake in its mouth up country.
Booted Eagle	One low bird at the restricted site beyond Istria and other sightings for the breakaway group on airport Saturday.
Marsh Harrier	Even common in areas where it was felt that Montagu's ought to be.
Long-legged Buzzard	The salient points were explained loudly in the quarry at the first stop of the week.
Common Buzzard	Common.
Honey Buzzard	The display flights were a feature of the week.

Sparrowhawk*	Two sightings only.
Levant Sparrowhawk*	Eventually all enjoyed a flying display.
Kestrel	Common.
Red-footed Falcon	The rookeries were exciting and memorable.
Hobby	Dragonflies were often available but the bolder examples sought bigger prey.
Moorhen	Common.
Coot	Common.
Oystercatcher	A familiar bird but a bit of a surprise sight.
Avocet	Several groups seen.
Black-winged Stilt	Long-legged eye-catcher.
Stone-Curlew	A nice pair on the upland grass.
Collared Pratincole	A large colony was in a sunflower field at Istria.
Little Ringed Plover	Carefully observed through the 'scope by the connoisseurs.
Kentish Plover	Looked huge next to accompanying stints.
Lapwing	Common.
Dunlin	One black-bellied example shared the same injury as a congener nearby.
Curlew Sandpiper	Still some red showing.
Broad-billed Sandpiper	Three seen closely including the limper.
Little Stint	Double figures in summer plumage still going or returning?
Wood Sandpiper	Early returners at Istria.
Green Sandpiper	Already back from breeding.
Redshank	Common.
Spotted Redshank	The two largest flocks in full summer plumage were at Istria.
Greenshank	With a good view not to be confused with the next species.
Marsh Sandpiper	Thin-billed and elegant.
Black-tailed Godwit	Surprisingly numerous by the edge of suitable waterways.
Curlew	A lone bird moved on by the sheep.
Ruff	A summer plumaged male was probably pricked and hence forced to linger with the mixed wader flocks.
Black-headed Gull	A big colony visited by the early returners.
Mediterranean Gull	Outnumbered the previous species at the breeding site.
Yellow-legged Gull	Common.
Caspian Gull	Seen well when we entered the forbidden gate.
Pallas's Gull	Someone asked and Eugen provided some in full summer plumage to the delight of the next door neighbours.
Common Tern	Common!
Caspian Tern	Only seen when we went ashore at the failed village.
Black Tern	Very few lingered from earlier because of poor water conditions.
Whiskered Tern	Has increased as a breeder to be ubiquitous through much of the Delta.
Feral Pigeon	Seen.
Stock Dove	A few noted.
Wood Pigeon	Some seen.
Collared Dove	Common.
Turtle Dove	Several pleasing sightings.
Cuckoo	Staggeringly numerous in the Delta.
Tawny Owl	Seen by some on the descent from bear country.
Little Owl	One hid in a hole but others showed well.
Swift	Seen in small numbers.
Alpine Swift*	A couple near the gorge.
Hoopoe	Showed very well in many places.
Kingfisher	Drew many wows because of the stunning views.
Bee-eater	Popular and the call was soon memorised.
Roller	Who would have thought that such a bird would be ignored by the third day?
Black Woodpecker	Did everything that it could to thrill its admirers - in the air, on the tree and in the hole.

Grey-headed Woodpecker	Good noise and great poses.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	Common.
Syrian Woodpecker	A compensation for those that missed the big mammals.
Middle spotted Woodpecker	Enjoyed at the nest and elsewhere.
Wryneck	At the nun's field came to the radiogram but failed to destroy it.
Skylark	Common.
Crested Lark	Was watched for a while by some.
Woodlark	The first in the pear orchard showed for a satisfying time.
Short-toed Lark	Difficult to see well.
Calandra Lark	Showed all its salient features at many venues.
Sand Martin	Only seen in numbers near the colonies at Istria.
Barn Swallow	Common.
House Martin	Common.
Tawny Pipit	So like a wagtail.
Tree Pipit*	Sang and settled on tree, post and wire.
White Wagtail	Common.
Yellow Wagtail	Common with various heads including black.
Grey Wagtail*	Everywhere in the Carpathians.
Dipper*	Had a territory by the path side in the gorge.
Robin	Secretive.
Thrush Nightingale	Certainly heard even up country.
Nightingale	Seemed to be sharing with its congener but were some sounds made by hybrids?
Redstart	Delightfully common in the Delta where its song was still sweet.
Black Redstart	Not as common as some expected.
Northern Wheatear	Common.
Isabelline Wheatear	Showed its characteristics in Dobrogea fields.
Pied Wheatear	First bird to be seen at the first stop and then enjoyed sheltering from the rain in the wide gorge.
Song Thrush*	Seen and heard.
Mistle Thrush*	Mostly heard.
Fieldfare*	A breeder in the mountains.
Blackbird*	Very much a rural bird here.
Garden Warbler	Fluted frequently in the Delta.
Blackcap	Very common.
Whitethroat	Scarce by our standards.
Lesser Whitethroat	As above.
Sedge Warbler	One seen and heard from the boat.
Savi's Warbler	Was one of the early morning stars at the second up Delta stop.
Reed Warbler	Common.
Paddyfield Warbler	Seen well by some at Istria.
Great Reed Warbler	Noisy and ubiquitous..
Icterine Warbler	Apparently responded to the right music.
Olivaceous Warbler	Showed well near the fish farm with the roving pig.
Chiffchaff	Common.
Willow Warbler	Heard well.
Goldcrest*	A Bran Castle bird.
Wren*	Heard.
Spotted Flycatcher	Made a couple of closely observed appearances.
Collared Flycatcher	Seen by one observer in the pear orchard.
Red-breasted Flycatcher	Sang well but showed only fleetingly in the woods.
Great Tit	Common.
Coal Tit*	Another well-seen Bran bird.
Blue Tit	Common.
Marsh Tit*	Called and showed as we waited to go bearing.

Sombre Tit	Most missed it.
Long-tailed Tit	Only seen in a few places.
Bearded Reedling	Delightful views from the boat.
Penduline Tit	A nice nest at the high tower reserve.
Wallcreeper*	A fluttering, restless, wing-flicking stunner just above eye level on the police training climbing wall. Who needs a telescope?
Treecreeper	A well-seen Bran bird.
Nuthatch	Again the best view was at Bran.
Lesser Grey Shrike	Not as common as the roller but perhaps because it is slightly less obvious.
Red-backed Shrike	Common but much enjoyed.
Magpie	Common.
Nutcracker*	The most admired bird took up the classic, lingering pose atop a pine tree.
Jay*	A few in the Carpathians.
Jackdaw	Very common. The white headed eastern form was worth a second look.
Rook	Much appreciated as the host for the red-foots.
Hooded Crow	Common.
Raven	Two seen in the Delta.
Starling	Thousands.
Golden Oriole	Even showed well on low trees.
House Sparrow	Common.
Spanish Sparrow	A pleasure to see them in their colony below the young storks at Istria.
Tree Sparrow	Common.
Chaffinch	Common.
Linnet	A few only.
Goldfinch	Scarce.
Greenfinch	Scarce.
Serin*	Only at Bran.
Hawfinch	Great views on the ground and at eye level in the trees at Bran.
Crossbill*	A flock fed above as we left the bus at Bran.
Reed Bunting	Some but well seen.
Ortolan Bunting	The 'Beethoven bird' sang well for us and posed to ensure telescope views at the pear orchard.
Yellowhammer*	One of the joys of the Carpathians as some chose to be confiding in their favourite bushes.
Corn Bunting	The old jingle-jangler was everywhere.

Total – 178 species



Three stunningly-coloured birds of the trip – bee-eater, wallcreeper (seen in the Carpathians) and roller.

BUTTERFLIES

Black-veined white *Aporio crataegi* C
 Small white *Artogeia rapai* J C
 Mountain green-veined white *A. napi bryoniae* C
 Bath white *Pontia daplidice* Do
 Orange tip *Anthocaris cardamines* C
 Eastern dappled white *Euchloe ausonia* Do
 Clouded yellow *Colias crocea* Do C
 Pale clouded yellow *Colias hyale* C photo 4
 Wood white *Leptidea sinapis* C
 Ilex hairstreak *Nordmannia ilicis* Do photo 3
 Green hairstreak *Callophrys rubi* C
 Large copper *Lycaena dispar rutilis* C
 Green-underside blue *Glaucopsyche alexis* C
 Silver-studded blue *Plebejus argus* Do
 Mazarine blue *Cyanarus semiargus* C
 Amanda's blue *Agrodiaetus amanda* Do
 Common blue *Polyiomatus icarus* Do C
 Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina* C
 Freyer's purple emperor *Apatura metis* DD photo 1
 Poplar admiral *Limenitis populi* C
 Hungarian glider *Neptis rivularis* C
 Red admiral *Vanessa atalanta* C



Painted lady *Vanessa cardui* DD C
 Comma *Polygona c-album* Do
 Cardinal *Argynnis pandora* Do photo 2
 Small pearl-bordered fritillary
Clossiana selene C
 Small tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* C
 High brown fritillary *Argynnis adippe* C
 Spotted fritillary *Melitaea didyma* Do
 Lesser spotted fritillary *Melitaea trivia* C
 Heath fritillary *Melitaea athalia* C
 Scotch argus *Erebia aethiops* C
 Woodland grayling *Hipparchia fagae* Do
 Meadow brown *Maniola jurtina* Do
 Small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* Do C
 Speckled wood *Pararge aegeria* C
 Wall brown *Lasiommata megera* C
 Large wall brown *Lasiommata maera* C
 Woodland brown *Lopinga achine* C
 Chestnut heath *Coenonympha glycerion* C
 Grizzled skipper *Pyrgus malvae* C
 Essex skipper *Thymelicus lineola* J
 Small skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris* DD

DRAGONFLIES

Banded demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* DD
 Beautiful demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo* DD
 Blue-tailed damselfly *Ischnura elegans* DD
 Red-eyed damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes* DD
 Norfolk hawker *Aeshna isosceles* DD
 Emperor *Anax imperator* DD

Lesser emperor *Anax parthenope* DD Do
 Four-spotted chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata* DD
 Broad-bodied chaser *Libellula depressa* DD C
 Black-tailed skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* DD
 Common darter *Sympetrum striolatum* DD
 Scarlet darter *Crocothemis erythraea* DD Do

REPTILES, AMPHIBIANS AND MOLLUSCS

Grass snake (*Natrix natrix*) D
 Green lizard (*Lacerta viridis*) D
 Balkan wall lizard (*Podarcis tauricus*) C
 European pond terrapin (*Emys orbicularis*) DD
 Sand lizard (*Lacerta agilis*) C
 Spur-thighed tortoise (*Testudo graeca*) D

Marsh frog (*Rana ridibunda*) DD
 Tree frog (*Hyla arborea*) DD
 Agile frog (*Rana dalmatina*) C
 Common toad (*Bufo bufo*) C
 Yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*) C
 Roman snail (*Helix pomatia*) C

MAMMALS

Roe deer (*Capreolus capreolus*) C
 Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) DD
 Red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) C
 European souslik (*Spermophilus citellus*) D

Brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) C
 Wolf (*Canis lupus*) C
 Otter (*Lutra lutra*) D
 Chamois (*Rupicapra rupicaprta*) C

PLANTS

Romania is a challenge and a wonderland for the botanist. Many plants will be familiar to those who have travelled in western Europe and the Mediterranean but in addition there are many species from the steppes or of Asiatic origin. Introduced plants add to the identification challenge. Alas, no one field guide covers the area.

ACERACEAE – Maple family		
<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple	Do
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	Do
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	sycamore	C
<i>Acer tataricum</i>	tartar maple	Do
ANACARDIACEAE – Cashew family		
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	smoke bush	Do
APIACEAE – Carrot family		
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	ground elder	Do
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	hemlock	Do
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	pignut	C
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo	Do
<i>Ferulago confusa</i>		Do
<i>Orlaya grandiflora</i>		Do
<i>Pimpinella major</i>	greater burnet-saxifrage	C
<i>Pimpinella tragium ssp. <i>lithophila</i></i>		Do
<i>Smyrnium perfoliatum</i>	perfoliate alexanders	Do
ASCLEPIADACEAE – Milkweed family		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	swallow-wort	Do
ASTERACEAE- Daisy family		
<i>Achillea clypeolata</i>		Do
<i>Anthemis tinctoria</i>	yellow chamomile	Do
<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	wormwood	Do
<i>Artemisia austriaca</i>		Do
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	mugwort	Do
<i>Bombycilaena erecta</i>		Do
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	musk thistle	Do
<i>Carduus thoermeri</i>		Do
<i>Centauria cyanus</i>	cornflower	Do
<i>Centauria napulifera</i>		Do
<i>Centauria marschalliana</i>		Do
<i>Centauria solstitialis</i>	yellow star-thistle	Do
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory	C
<i>Doronicum columnae</i>	leopard's-bane	C
<i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>	fox-and-cubs	C
<i>Jurinea mollis</i>		Do
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	ox-eye daisy	C
<i>Scorzonera hispanica</i>		Do
<i>Tanacetum corymbosum</i>		Do
<i>Tanacetum millefolium</i>		Do
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>		C
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>		C
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	rough cocklebur	Do
BORAGINACEAE – Borage family		
<i>Echium italicum</i>	pale bugloss	Do
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	viper's bugloss	Do
<i>Myosotis scorpioides</i>	water forget-me-not	DD
<i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	wood forget-me-not	C
<i>Onosma arenaria</i>		Do
<i>Onosma visianii</i>		DD
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	comfrey	DD C
BRASSICACEAE – Cabbage family		
<i>Alyssum murale</i>		Do
<i>Alyssum saxatile</i>		Do
<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>		Do
<i>Hymenolobus procumbens</i>		Do
<i>Lunaria genistifolia</i>		Do
<i>Lunaria rediviva</i>	perennial honesty	C

BUTOMACEAE – Flowering rush family		
<i>Butomis umbellatus</i>	flowering-rush	DD
CAMPANULACEAE – Bellflower family		
<i>Asyneuma anthericoides</i>		Do
<i>Campanula patula</i>		C
<i>Campanula romanica</i>		Do
<i>Campanula sibirica</i>		Do
CANNABACEAE – Hemp family		
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	hemp	Do
<i>Celtis glabrata</i>		Do
CAPRIFOLIACEAE – Honeysuckle family		
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder	C
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	C
CARYOPHYLLACEAE – Pink family		
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i>		C
<i>Dianthus nardiformis</i>		Do
<i>Kohlrauschia prolifera</i>		Do
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	ragged-robin	C
<i>Lychnis viscaria</i>	sticky catchfly	C
<i>Minuartia glomerata</i>		Do
<i>Minuartia adenotricha</i>		Do
<i>Paronychia cephalotes</i>		Do
<i>Silene noctiflora</i>	night-flowering catchfly	C
<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham catchfly	C
<i>Spergularia media</i>	greater sea-spurrey	Do
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	wood stitchwort	C
CELASTRACEAE – Bittersweet family		
<i>Euonymus verrucosus</i>		Do
CHENOPodiaceae – Goosefoot family		
<i>Bassia hirsuta</i>	hairy seablitte	Do
<i>Halimione pendunculata</i>		Do
<i>Halimione verrucifera</i>		Do
<i>Salicornia europaea</i>	glasswort	Do
<i>Suaeda maritima</i>	annual seablitte	Do
CISTACEAE – Rockrose family		
<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	common rock-rose	C
CONVOLVULACEAE – Bindweed family		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	field bindweed	Do
<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	pink bindweed	Do
<i>Convolvulus lineatus</i>		Do
CORNACEAE – Dogwood family		
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian cherry	Do
CORYLACEAE – Hazel family		
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel	Do C
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam	Do
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	eastern hornbeam	Do
CRASSULACEAE – Stonecrop family		
<i>Sedum hillebrandii</i>		Do
ELEAGNACEAE – Oleaster family		
<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	oleaster	Do
EPHEDRACEAE – Joint-pine family		
<i>Ephedra fragilis</i>	joint-pine	DD
EUPHORBIACEAE – Spurge family		
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	wood spurge	C
<i>Euphorbia agraria</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia cadyllateri</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia chamaecyparissus</i>	cypress spurge	C
<i>Euphorbia dobrogensis</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia glareosa</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i> ssp. <i>litardierei</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia nicaeensis</i> ssps. <i>dobrogensis</i> & <i>cadrilateri</i>		Do
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i>		Do

FABACEAE – Pea family		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	kidney vetch	C
<i>Astragalus ponticus</i>		Do
<i>Astragalus varius</i>		Do
<i>Astragalus vesicarius</i> ssp. <i>pseudoglaucus</i>		Do
<i>Genista sagittale</i>	winged greenweed	C
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	meadow vetchling	C
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i>		Do
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	black medick	Do C
<i>Medicago minima</i>	bur medick	Do
<i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i>	sainfoin	C
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	false acacia	Do
<i>Trifolium arvense</i>	hare's-foot clover	Do
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	hop trefoil	Do
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	red clover	C
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	white clover	C
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	tufted vetch	C
<i>Vicia tenuifolia</i>		Do
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	fodder vetch	Do
FAGACEAE – Beech family		
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech	C
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	downy oak	Do
FRANKENIACEAE – Frankenia family		
<i>Frankenia hirsuta</i>	sea heath	Do
GENTIANACEAE – Gentian family		
<i>Gentiana vernus</i>		C
<i>Gentiana utriculosa</i>		C
GERANIACEAE – Geranium family		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	common stork's-bill	Do
<i>Geranium phaeum</i>	dusky crane's-bill	C
<i>Geranium pratense</i>		C
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb-robert	C
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	bloody crane's-bill	Do
GLOBULARIACEAE – Globularia family		
<i>Globularia punctata</i>		Do
HYDROCHARITACEAE – Tape-grass family		
<i>Trapa natans</i>	water chestnut	DD
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	water soldier	DD
IRIDACEAE – Iris family		
<i>Iris sibirica</i>		Do
<i>Iris suaveolens</i>		Do
LAMIACEAE – Mint family		
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	basil-thyme	Do
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	ground-pine	Do
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal bugle	C
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	bugle	C
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	spotted deadnettle	Do
<i>Marrubium peregrinum</i>		Do
<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	bastard balm	C
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	water mint	DD
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	self-heal	C
<i>Salvia austriaca</i>		Do
<i>Salvia aethiopis</i>		Do
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i> ssp. <i>tesquicola</i>	wild sage	Do
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	meadow clary	C
<i>Scutellaria altissima</i>		Do
<i>Scutellaria orientalis</i>		Do
<i>Sideritis montana</i>		Do
<i>Stachys officinalis</i>	betony	C
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	marsh woundwort	Do DD
<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	wall germander	Do
<i>Thymus zyggioides</i>		Do

LILIACEAE – Lily family		
<i>Allium rotundum</i>		Do
<i>Allium saxatile</i>		Do
<i>Asparagus verticillatus</i>		Do
<i>Asparagus tenuifolius</i>		Do
<i>Muscari tenuiflorum</i>		Do
<i>Nectaroscardum siculum</i> ssp. <i>bulgaricum</i>		Do
LINACEAE – Flax family		
<i>Linum austriacum</i>		Do C
<i>Linum hirsutum</i>		Do
<i>Linum tenuifolium</i>		Do
LYTHRACEAE – Loosestrife family		
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	purple loosestrife	DD
MALVACEAE – Mallow family		
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	marsh mallow	Do
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	common mallow	Do
NYMPHAEACEAE – Water-lily family		
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	yellow water-lily	DD
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	white water-lily	DD
OLEACEAE – Olive family		
<i>Fraxinus coriariifolia</i>		Do
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>		Do
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	manna ash	Do
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	wild privet	DD
ORCHIDACEAE – Orchid family		
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	pyramidal orchid	Do
<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	red helleborine	Do
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	common spotted orchid	C
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis</i>	broad-leaved marsh orchid	C
<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>	fragrant orchid	C
<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i> ssp. <i>caprinum</i>	lizard orchid	Do
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	violet bird's-nest orchid	Do
<i>Orchis laxiflora</i> ssp. <i>elegans</i>	loose-flowered orchid	Do
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	early purple orchid	C
<i>Orchis militaris</i>	military orchid	Do
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	lady orchid	Do
<i>Platanthera bifolia</i>	lesser butterfly orchid	C
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	greater butterfly orchid	Do
OROBANCHACEAE – Broomrape family		
<i>Orabanche purpurea</i>		Do
OXALIDACEAE – Sorrel family		
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	wood-sorrel	C
<i>Oxalis caryophylacea</i>		Do
PAEONIACEAE – Paeony family		
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>		Do
PAPAVERACEAE – Poppy family		
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	greater celandine	C
<i>Papaver rhoeus</i>	common poppy	Do
PLANTAGINACEAE – Plantain family		
<i>Plantago gentianoides</i>		C
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	ribwort plantain	Do
<i>Plantago media</i>	hoary plantain	Do C
PLUMBAGINACEAE – Plumbago family		
<i>Limonium bellidifolium</i> ssp. <i>danubiale</i>		Do
POACEAE – Grass family		
<i>Aegylops cilinerica</i>		Do
<i>Agropyron pectiniformae</i> (<i>cristatum</i>)		Do
<i>Apera spica-venti</i>	common windgrass	Do
<i>Briza media</i>	quaking-grass	C
<i>Bromus squarrosus</i>		Do
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	drooping brome	Do
<i>Festuca valesiaca</i>		Do
<i>Phragmites australis</i> ssp. <i>altissima</i>	common reed	Do DD
<i>Piptatherum virescens</i>		Do

<i>Poa bulbosa</i>	bulbous meadow-grass	Do
<i>Puccinellia limosa</i>	saltmarsh grass	Do
<i>Secale sylvestre</i>		Do
<i>Stipa lessingiana</i>		Do
<i>Stipa pulcherium</i>		Do
POLYGALACEAE – Milkwort family		
<i>Polygala major</i>		Do
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	common milkwort	Do
POLYGONACEAE – Dock family		
<i>Polygonatum latifolium</i>	broad-leaved solomon's seal	Do
<i>Polygonatum verticillatum</i>	whorled solomon's seal	C
<i>Rumex stenophyllus</i>		Do
PRIMULACEAE – Primrose family		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	scarlet pimpernel	Do
<i>Cortusa matthiola</i>	alpine bells	C
<i>Lysmachia nummularia</i>	creeping jenny	C
<i>Primula elatior</i>	oxlip	C
RANUNCULACEAE – Buttercup family		
<i>Aconitum variegatum</i>		C
<i>Anemone sylvestris</i>		Do
<i>Clematis hederefolia</i>		Do
<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>		Do
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	traveller's joy	DD
<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	eastern larkspur	Do
<i>Thahctrum aquilegifolium</i>		C
<i>Trollius europaeus</i>	globeflower	C
RHAMNACEAE – Buckthorn family		
<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	Christ's-thorn	Do
ROSACEAE – Rose family		
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	wild strawberry	C
<i>Geum rivale</i>	water avens	C
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	hoary cinquefoil	Do
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	creeping cinquefoil	Do
<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's cherry	Do
<i>Pyrus pyraster</i>	wild pear	Do
<i>Rosa canina</i>	dog rose	C
<i>Rosa pendulina</i>	alpine rose	C
<i>Spiraea chamaedryifolia</i>		C
RUBIACEAE – Bedstraw family		
<i>Crucianella oxyloba</i>		Do
<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	crosswort	C
<i>Galium aparine</i>		Do
<i>Galium glaucum</i>		Do
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	woodruff	C
<i>Galium palustre</i>	marsh bedstraw	DD
<i>Galium rubioides</i>		Do
RUTACEAE – Rue family		
<i>Haplophyllum suaveolens</i>		Do
SALICACEAE – Willow family		
<i>Populus alba</i>	white poplar	DD
<i>Populus tremulans</i>	aspen	Do
<i>Salix alba</i>	white willow	Do DD
<i>Salix purpurea</i>	purple willow	DD
SAXIFRAGACEAE – Saxifrage family		
<i>Saxifrage cuneifolia</i>		C
SCROPHULARIACEAE – Figwort family		
<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i>		C
<i>Linaria genistifolia</i>		Do
<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>	crested cow-wheat	Do
<i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i>		C
<i>Pedicularis comosa</i>		C
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	greater yellow-rattle	C
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	yellow-rattle	C
<i>Verbascum banaticum</i>		Do

<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>		Do
<i>Verbascum chaixii</i>		DD
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	purple mullein	Do
<i>Verbascum phlomoides</i>	orange mullein	Do
<i>Veronica austriaca</i>		Do
SOLANACEAE – Potato family		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet	DD
SPARGANIACEAE – Bur-reed family		
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	branched bur-reed	DD
STAPHYLEACEAE – Bladdernut family		
<i>Staphylea pinnata</i>	bladdernut	Do
TAMARICACEAE – Tamarisk family		
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>		Do DD
TILIACEAE – Lime family		
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	silver lime	Do
TRAPACEAE – Water-chestnut family		
<i>Trapa natans</i>	water-chestnut	DD
TYPHACEAE – Bulrush family		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	lesser reedmace	DD
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	reedmace	DD
ULMACEAE – Elm family		
<i>Ulmus montana</i> (= <i>Ulmus glabra</i>)	wych elm	Do
VALERIANACEAE – Valerian family		
<i>Valeriana montana</i>		C
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	common valerian	C
VERBENACEAE – Verbena		
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>		Do
VIOLACEAE – Violet family		
<i>Viola tricolor</i>	heartsease	C
ASPLENIACEAE (FERNS)		
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	wall rue	Do



Asyneuma anthericoides



Dianthus nardiformis



Paeony peregrina



Campanula romanica



Nectaroscordum siculum



Paronychia cephalotes



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