

Romania & Bulgaria Black Sea Coast Migration Species List | September 20 – 29, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



List compiled by group leader Gerard Gorman with the assistance of the tour participants Andrew, Marion, Carol, Husam, Carol, Donna, and Margie.

(#) = Number of days recorded. (H) = heard only, not seen.

For further details on specific species, locations and habitats, please see the tour report.

BIRDS: (130)

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae: (12)

Graylag Goose *Anser anser* — (3) Biggest numbers, 300 plus birds, at Vadu in Romania on day 3.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* — (7) Fairly common and widespread.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna* — (5) Small numbers on saline lakes in both countries, most at Lake Atanasovsko in Bulgaria.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula* — (1) Just one seen, at Lake Shabla in Bulgaria on day 5.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata* — (5) Flocks of 100 plus seen on wetlands in both countries. **Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* — (3) Less than 10 in total seen.

Eurasian Wigeon *Mareca penelope* — (2) Less than 10 seen, all on Lake Sable in Bulgaria.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* — (6) Fairly common and widespread in both countries.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* — (2) A few seen on Lakes Shabla and Atanasovsko in Bulgaria on days 5 and 6.

Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal *Anas crecca* — (7) Flocks of 100s seen on wetlands in both countries.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* — (2) Only seen in Romania, less than 10 in total.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* — (1) Two seen on Lake Mandra in Bulgaria on day 9.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca* — (3) A few seen in Romania on days 2 and 3, and on Lake Mandra in Bulgaria on day 9.

PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND ALLIES: Phasianidae: (1)

Ring-necked Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* — (4) Single birds seen, males and females, in both countries, and others heard.

FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae: (1)

Greater Flamingo *Phoenicopterus roseus* — (3) Several 100s on lakes Shabla and Atanasovsko in Bulgaria.

GREBES: Podicipedidae: (3)

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* — (2) A few seen at the Pomorie salt pans and on Lake Mandra in Bulgaria.

Eared Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* — (4) Scattered sightings of small numbers in Bulgaria.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae: (4)

Rock (Feral) Pigeon *Columba livia* — (10) Widespread. Only feral “domestica” birds seen.

Common Wood-Pigeon *Columba palumbus* — (9) Small numbers seen almost daily in both countries.

European Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia turtur* — (1) Just one seen, on day 2 in Romania.

Eurasian Collared-Dove *Streptopelia decaocto* — (10) Common and widespread, seen in settlements in both countries throughout.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae: (1)

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus* — (1) One on a roadside wire near Lake Mandra, Bulgaria, on day 9.

RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae: (3)

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus* — (H) Heard on day 9 at Lake Mandra in Bulgaria.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* — (3) Heard on day 5 and seen on days 7 and 9, all in Bulgaria.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* — (4) Dozens seen on several wetlands in Bulgaria.

THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae: (1)

Eurasian Thick-knee *Burhinus oedichnemus* — (1) A dozen on steppe near Balgarevo, Bulgaria, on day 4.

STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae: (2)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* — (2) Small numbers seen on days 3 and 9 on saline wetlands in both countries.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* — (2) A few at Vadu in Romania on day 3 and about 100 on day 9 at Lake Atanasovsko in Bulgaria.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae: (3)

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus* — (2) Seen on coastal wetlands in Romania on days 2 and 3.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula* — (2) Scattered sightings, all in Bulgaria.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* — (3) Close views at Pomorie in Bulgaria on days 7 and 9.

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae: (12)

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata* — (1) Three seen on day 3 at Vadu, Romania.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax* — (3) Birds in non-breeding plumage seen, dozens at Vadu in Romania and Lake Atanasovsko in Bulgaria.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina* — (3) A few seen at Vadu on day 3 and Lake Shabla on days 5 and 6.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* — (3) Several seen in both countries, mostly in flight but also on the ground at Lake Shabla in Bulgaria.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* — (1) One at Vadu in Romania on day 3.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* — (1) Two at Vadu in Romania on day 3.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus* — (2) A few in winter plumage seen, on day 3 at Vadu and day 9 at Lake Atanasovsko.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* — (1) Up to 6 seen on day 3 at Vadu, Romania.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* — (2) Several seen close at Vadu, Romania, and Lake Atanasovsko, Bulgaria, on day 9.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* — (2) Several seen close at Lake Atanasovsko, Bulgaria, on day 9.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* — (1) One at the Pomorie salt pans in Bulgaria on day 7.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* — (1) Seen on day 9 at Lake Atanasovsko in Bulgaria.

GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae: (10)

Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei* — (1) Two at Pomorie salt pans, Bulgaria, on day 7.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (9) Common and widespread, seen throughout.

Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus* — (1) One at the Pomorie salt pans on day 9.

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus* — (4) Flocks seen on wetlands and farmland in Romania, often in the company of Black-headed Gulls.

Yellow-legged *Larus michahellis* — (9) Common, particularly in Bulgaria.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans* — (3) Common in Romania, not seen to the south in Bulgaria.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* — (1) One seen at Vadu in Romania on day 3.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* — (3) Several seen in Romania on days 2 and 3 and 1 at Lake Shabla in Bulgaria on day 6.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* — (2) A few seen in Romania on days 2 and 3.

Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis* — (3) About 20 off Cape Kaliakra on day 5 and 100s perched on poles in the Pomorie salt pans on days 7 and 9.

STORKS: Ciconiidae: (2)

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra* — (1) One seen in flight over a rice field on the way to Sofia on the last day.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* — (1) Two seen in roadside fields by the highway on the last day.

CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae: (3)

Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmaeus* — (5) Common on wetlands in both countries.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* — (9) Very common on wetlands in both countries.

European Shag *Gulosus aristotelis* — (2) Around a dozen at Cape Kaliakra on day 5 and on rocks before Shabla on day 6, both in Bulgaria.

PELICANS: Pelecanidae: (2)

Great White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus* — (5) Migrating flocks of up to 100 each seen in flight in both countries. Some seen on the water.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* — (4) Scattered sightings in both countries with over 30 resting together at Lake Atanasovsko in Bulgaria on day 9.

HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae: (5)

Gray Heron *Ardea cinerea* — (7) Scattered sightings in both countries.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* — (4) Around 8 seen, often in flight, in both countries.

Great Egret *Ardea alba* — (8) Scattered sightings in both countries.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* — (2) Surprisingly few seen.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides* — (2) Around 6 seen, on days 3 and 9.

OSPREY: Pandionidae: (1)

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* — (4) Several migrating birds seen in both countries.

HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae: (7)

European Honey-Buzzard *Pernis apivorus* — (3) Up to 10 individuals seen on migration.

Short-toed Snake-Eagle *Circaetus gallicus* — (3) Fine views of a two different perched birds and others in flight.

Eurasian Marsh-Harrier *Circus aeruginosus* — (8) Common, several seen on most days in both countries. Mainly females and immatures.

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* — (1) A superb sub-adult male seen at Histria, Romania, on day 3.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* — (1) A female seen at Cape Kaliakra, Bulgaria, on day 5.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* — (8) Up to 10 seen on most days in both countries.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo* — (9) Widespread in both countries, often perched at roadsides.

OWLS: Strigidae: (1)

Little Owl *Athene noctua* — (4) Three seen on village rooftops and chimneys in Bulgaria. One heard at dusk by the hotel in Sozopol.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae: (1)

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* — (2) Two seen, one at Lake Razelm in Romania on day 2 and one at Lake Mandra in Bulgaria on day 9.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae: (1)

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* — (1) A migrating flock of about 30 birds seen near Tyulenovo, Bulgaria, on day 6.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae: (7)

Middle-spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocoptes medius* — (2) Seen in the Baltata woods, Albena, on day 7 and at Ropotamo on day 8.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* — (2) Three seen near Shabla, Bulgaria, on day 6, others heard.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus* — (4) Seen and heard in settlements in both countries.

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos* — (1) Subspecies *lilfordi*: two seen in the Strandzha forest in Bulgaria on day 8.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor* — (3) Singles seen on days 7 and 9, one heard in the Strandzha forest on day 8, all in Bulgaria.

Gray-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus* — (2) One in the Baltata woods, Albena, on day 7 and one at Ropotamo on day 8, both in Bulgaria.

Eurasian Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis* — (3) Several heard and two seen in Bulgaria: one at Strandzha on day 8 and one by Lake Mandra on day 9.

FALCONS: Falconidae: (3)

Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* — (9) Common and widespread in both countries.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus* — (1) One juvenile seen on a wire near Balgarevo on day 5.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo* — (8) Numerous sightings of migrating birds in both countries.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae: (1)

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus* — (1) A leader-only sighting at Lake Mandra, Bulgaria, on day 9.

SHRIKES: Laniidae: (1)

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio* — (6) Many seen, mostly juveniles moving south, in both countries.

CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae: (6)

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius* — (5) Many seen on the move, mostly in Bulgaria.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica* — (9) Common in both rural and urban areas throughout.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula* — (10) Common in both rural and urban areas throughout.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus* — (6) Flocks of several 100 often in farmland in Romania.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix* — (9) Common and widespread, seen throughout but not in large flocks.

Common Raven *Corvus corax* — (6) Scattered sightings, usually of one or two birds in flight.

TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae: (2)

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (2) Two seen on day 9 by Lake Mandra in Bulgaria.

Great Tit *Parus major* — (6) Fairly common in wooded places in Bulgaria.

LARKS: Alaudidae: (3)

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea* — (2) Several, some singing, on wires near Balgarevo, Bulgaria, on day 6.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis* — (1) Four seen on day 2 in a field by Lake Razelm in Romania.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries, often at roadsides and around villages.

SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae: (3)

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia* — (1) Less than 10, seen amongst Barn Swallows on day 2.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* — (10) Flocks seen on passage every day.

Common House-Martin *Delichon urbicum* — (3) A few seen on the move with Barn Swallows.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae: (3)

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* — (8) The most numerous warbler seen, many on migration.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita* — (8) Common, but not as numerous as Willow Warbler; some also heard singing.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* — (1) One in the St. John Casius monastery garden in Romania on day 4 and one at Pomorie in Bulgaria on day 7.

LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae: (1)

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus* — (2) Seen at Ropotamo on day 8 and around 30 at Lake Mandra on day 9.

SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae: (3)

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* — (1) A male and a female at Cape Kaliakra, Bulgaria, on day 5.

Lesser Whitethroat *Curruca curruca* — (3) Several sightings, in both countries.

Greater Whitethroat *Curruca communis* — (1) One seen by Lake Mandra, Bulgaria, on day 9.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae: (1)

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europea* — (1) Seen on day 8 at Ropotamo, Bulgaria.

TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae: (1)

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla* — (2) Seen at Baltata woods on day 7 and day 8 at Ropotamo, Bulgaria.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae: (1)

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris* — (9) Common and widespread in both countries, often in large flocks.

THRUSHES: Turdidae: (1)

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula* — (2) Surprisingly few seen, just two observations in Bulgaria.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae: (7)

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata* — (9) Common in both countries, seen throughout.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula* — (2) Surprisingly, just two seen, both in Bulgaria.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (7) Many seen and heard, in both countries, all on migration.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (4) Around 6 seen, in both countries.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* — (2) Around 10 seen, on days 4 and 8.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra* — (3) Single birds seen in both countries.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe* — (2) One on the ruins at Cape Kaliakra and one near Balgarevo, both in Bulgaria.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae: (3)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* — (8) Common and widespread, seen in many settlements and around farms.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* — (2) Small parties seen at Durankulak and Lake Shabla in Bulgaria.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* — (8) Fairly common, seen in rural areas in both countries.

PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae: (3)

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava* — (2) Seen on days 7 and 9 at the Pomorie salt pans, Bulgaria.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba* — (9) Common and widespread. Many passage flocks seen.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis* — (2) Several seen on roadside wires near Balgarevo, Bulgaria, on day 6.

FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae: (3)

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs* — (2) Seen in woods at Ropotamo, Strandzha and by Lake Mandra, in Bulgaria.

Eurasian Linnet *Linaria cannabina* — (1) About 6 seen near Balgarevo, Bulgaria, on day 6.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis* — (6) Small flocks seen in both countries.

OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae: (1)

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra* — (2) Around 100 seen on wires in farmland near Balgarevo, Bulgaria, on day 5.

OTHER WILDLIFE

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris* — (1) One in the Baltata woods, Albena, on day 7.

Fallow Deer *Dama dama* — (1) Two seen near Ropotamo, Bulgaria, on day 8.

Spur-thighed Tortoise *Testudo graeca* — (1) One found on the road and moved into grassland before Shabla, Bulgaria, on day 6.

Caspian Whip Snake *Dolichophis caspius* — (1) One by Lake Mandra, Bulgaria, on day 8.

Balkan Green Lizard *Lacerta trilineata* — (1) One seen in Balgarevo, Bulgaria, on day 6.

Praying Mantis *Mantis religiosa* — (1) One fine, female specimen, found on the bus door (later safely moved) on day 6.