

# Romania & Bulgaria: Black Sea Coast Migration Species List | September 20-29, 2025 with Naturalist Journeys



**List compiled by group leader Gerard Gorman with the assistance of the tour participants Inge, Fred, Don, Celia, Leigh, Nick, Pat, and John**

The eBird link below details the 133 species of birds our group observed during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click "Show All Details" on the right side of the list to expand the report and reveal where and when each of the birds were seen and how many.

[Romania & Bulgaria: Black Sea Coast Migration | September 20-29, 2025 | eBird Trip Report](#)

(#) = Number of days recorded.

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

## **BIRDS (133):**

### **DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS: Anatidae (13)**

**Graylag Goose** *Anser anser* — (3) Around 30 at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3.

**Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor* — (8) Common and widespread in both countries.

**Ruddy Shelduck** *Tadorna ferruginea* — (1) One seen at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria on day 5.

**Common Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna* — (2) Seen on day 3 at Jurilovca in Romania and a dozen on day 8 from the Lake Atanasovsko Bird Hide in Bulgaria.

**Garganey** *Spatula querquedula* — (1) Four in eclipse plumage seen at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria on day 5.

**Northern Shoveler** *Spatula clypeata* — (4) Several groups of 100+ seen on wetlands in both countries. Most in eclipse plumage.

**Gadwall** *Mareca strepera* — (3) About 20 seen at Lake Durankulak in Bulgaria on day 6.

**Eurasian Wigeon** *Mareca penelope* — (1) Three at the Poda Reserve in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos* — (8) Numerous sightings on most days in both countries.

**Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta* — (1) One at the Poda Reserve and five from the Lake Atanasovsko Bird Hide in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Green-winged (Eurasian) Teal** *Anas crecca* — (7) Large migrating flocks of 100s each in both countries.

**Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina* — (1) About 100 on Lake Mandra in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca* — (1) Two seen in flight at Lake Mandra in Bulgaria on day 8.

### **PHEASANTS, PARTRIDGES AND ALLIES: Phasianidae (2)**

**Ring-necked Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus* — (5) Single birds heard and seen in both countries, mostly adult males.

**Gray Partridge** *Perdix perdix* — (1) A group of four seen briefly by the roadside near Shabla in Bulgaria on day 5.

### **FLAMINGOS: Phoenicopteridae (1)**

**Greater Flamingo** *Phoenicopterus roseus* — (1) Feeding flocks of up to 100+ on Lake Mandra and 1000+ from the Atanasovsko Bird Hide in Bulgaria on day 8.

### **GREBES: Podicipedidae (3)**

**Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis* — (4) Scattered sightings in both countries.

**Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus* — (2) Around ten seen on Lake Mandra in Bulgaria.

**Eared Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries.

### **PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae (4)**

**Rock (Feral) Pigeon** *Columba livia* — (10) Widespread. Feral “domestica” birds seen, but two possible “wild” birds were at Cheia in Romania on day 4.

**Common Wood-Pigeon** *Columba palumbus* — (6) Scattered sightings in Bulgaria.

**European Turtle-Dove** *Streptopelia turtur* — (1) Three seen near Durankulak in Bulgaria on day 6.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** *Streptopelia decaocto* — (10) Abundant in both countries; seen both in settlements and in flocks in cereal fields.

### **CUCKOOS: Cuculidae (1)**

**Common Cuckoo** *Cuculus canorus* — (2) Two seen in flight, on days 4 and 6.

### **SWIFTS: Apodidae (1)**

**Alpine Swift** *Tachymarptis melba* — (4) Groups of up to 30 birds each seen in Bulgaria including some flying low down in Burgas city on the last day.

### **RAILS, COOTS AND ALLIES: Rallidae (3)**

**Water Rail** *Rallus aquaticus* — (2) Heard on day 8 and one seen on day 9 at the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, in Bulgaria.

**Eurasian Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* — (3) Seen on day 3 at Jurilovca in Romania and on days 8 and 9 at the Izvorska River Mouth in Bulgaria.

**Eurasian Coot** *Fulica atra* — (5) Fairly common on wetlands in both countries.

### **THICK-KNEES: Burhinidae (1)**

**Eurasian Thick-knee** *Burhinus oedichnemus* — (1) Six on steppe near Balgarevo in Bulgaria on day 4.

### **STILTS AND AVOCETS: Recurvirostridae (1)**

**Pied Avocet** *Recurvirostra avosetta* — (1) Two at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3.

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae (4)**

**Black-bellied Plover** *Pluvialis squatarola* — (3) Three singles seen in Bulgaria, at Lake Shabla-Tuzla on day 6 and on days 7 and 8 at the Pomorie saltworks.

**Northern Lapwing** *Vanellus vanellus* — (1) Ten seen in flight near Sarichioi in Romania on day 3.

**Common Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula* — (1) Two on day 6 at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria.

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* — (3) Several seen in Bulgaria, at Lake Shabla-Tuzla on day 5 and at Pomorie saltworks on days 7 and 8.

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae (12)**

**Eurasian Curlew** *Numenius arquata* — (3) One at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3 and 6 at Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria on days 7 and 8.

**Black-tailed Godwit** *Limosa limosa* — (1) Six at Vadu in Romania on day 2.

**Ruff** *Calidris pugnax* — (2) Single birds in non-breeding plumage seen at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria on days 5 and 6.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii* — (1) One seen at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria on day 5.

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina* — (4) Scattered sightings with around 50 at the Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria on day 7.

**Little Stint** *Calidris minuta* — (1) Three seen at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria on day 6.

**Common Snipe** *Gallinago gallinago* — (5) Dozens seen on wetlands in both countries.

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* — (1) Two at the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, in Bulgaria on day 9.

**Green Sandpiper** *Tringa ochropus* — (1) One seen at Durankulak in Bulgaria on day 6.

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia* — (1) One at the Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* — (4) Scattered sightings at wetlands in Bulgaria.

**Common Redshank** *Tringa totanus* — (3) About 20 at the Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria on day 8.

#### **GULLS AND TERNS: Laridae (11)**

**Slender-billed Gull** *Chroicocephalus genei* — (2) About 30 at Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria on day 7, fewer there on day 8.

**Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* — (10) Common and widespread, seen throughout. Flocks of 100+ in fields in Romania.

**Little Gull** *Hydrocoloeus minutus* — (2) Around 10 at Pomorie saltworks on days 7 and 8.

**Mediterranean Gull** *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus* — (6) Flocks of several 100 each seen on wetlands and farmland in Romania.

**Yellow-legged** *Larus michahellis* — (6) Very common along the coast in Bulgaria.

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

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia* — (4) Single birds seen over wetlands in both countries.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* — (1) One near Lake Durankulak on day 6.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* — (3) Scattered sightings in both countries.

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons* — (1) Two seen at the Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Sandwich Tern** *Thalasseus sandvicensis* — (6) Scattered sightings in both countries. 100+ at Lake Shabla-Tuzla and Pomorie saltworks in Bulgaria.

#### **STORKS: Ciconiidae (1)**

**Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra* — (1) Two seen flying over the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, in Bulgaria, on day 8.

#### **CORMORANTS: Phalacrocoracidae (3)**

**Pygmy Cormorant** *Microcarbo pygmaeus* — (8) Common on wetlands in both countries.

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

**European Shag** *Gulosus aristotelis* — (3) Fairly common on rocky coastlines in Bulgaria.

#### **PELICANS: Pelecanidae (2)**

**Great White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus* — (2) About 30 on Lake Burgas-Vaya in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus* — (4) Scattered sightings in both countries.

#### **HERONS AND EGRETS: Ardeidae (4)**

**Gray Heron** *Ardea cinerea* — (8) Common. Scattered sightings in both countries.

**Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* — (5) Up to ten seen, often in flight, in both countries.

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

**Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* — (5) Scattered sightings, most in Bulgaria.

#### **IBIS AND SPPONBILLS: Threskiornithidae (1)**

**Eurasian Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia* — (2) One at Histria in Romania on day 2 and eight in flight over the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, in Bulgaria on day 8.

#### **OSPREE: Pandionidae (1)**

**Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* — (3) Several individual migrating birds seen in both countries.

#### **HAWKS, KITES AND EAGLES: Accipitridae (9)**

**European Honey-Buzzard** *Pernis apivorus* — (1) Six on passage over the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, in Bulgaria on day 9.

**Short-toed Snake-Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus* — (1) Good views of a two different birds in Bulgaria on day 9, one perched near Primorsko and one in flight near Izvor.

**Lesser Spotted Eagle** — (2) Two seen in Bulgaria; one at Balchik on day 7 and one over the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, on day 8.

**Eurasian Marsh-Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus* — (10) Common, several seen every day: mainly females and immatures.

**Levant Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter brevipes* — (3) One at Histria on day 2 and one at Jurilovca on day 3, in Romania, and in Bulgaria two at Cape Kaliakra on day 5.

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus* — (7) Up to 10 seen on some days in both countries.

**White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla* — (2) Three seen in Bulgaria; two at Durankulak on day 6 and one over the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, on day 9.

**Common Buzzard** *Buteo buteo* — (10) Widespread in both countries, often perched at roadsides.

**Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus* — (3) Three seen; in Romania one near Sarichioi on day 3 and one near Baia on day 4, and in Bulgaria one over the Izvorska River Mouth, Lake Mandra, on day 8.

#### **OWLS: Strigidae (1)**

**Little Owl** *Athene noctua* — (2) Two seen: one at Histria, Romania, on day 2 and one on a village house chimney near Lake Mandra, Bulgaria, on day 8.

#### **HOOPOES: Upupidae (1)**

**Eurasian Hoopoe** *Upupa epops* .... — (2) One at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3 and one near Shabla in Bulgaria on day 6.

#### **KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae (1)**

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* — (2) Three at Durankulak on day 6 and one on day 8, all in Bulgaria.

#### **WOODPECKERS: Picidae (9)**

**Eurasian Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla* — (1) One by Lake Burgas-Vaya in Bulgaria on day 8.

**Middle-spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocoptes medius* — (4) Several sightings in both countries.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos major* — (5) Fairly common in both countries.

**Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos syriacus* — (7) Seen in settlements in both countries including two at our hotel in Baia in Romania on days 2 and 3.

**White-backed Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos leucotos* — (1) One seen in the Strandzha forest in Bulgaria on day 9: the southern European subspecies *lilfordi*.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** *Dryobates minor* — (2) One at Durankulak in Bulgaria on day 4 and one heard in the Ropotamo forest on day 9.

**Gray-headed Woodpecker** *Picus canus* — (2) Seen in the woods around our hotel at Rosenets in Bulgaria on days 8 and 9.

**Eurasian Green Woodpecker** *Picus viridis* — (3) Five seen in total Bulgaria: in the Baltata Reserve on day 7, Rosenets on day 8 and the Strandzha Forest on day 9.

**Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus martius* — (2) Two in Bulgaria: one in the Baltata Reserve on day 7 and one in the Strandzha Forest on day 9.

#### **FALCONS: Falconidae (3)**

**Eurasian Kestrel** *Falco tinnunculus* — (10) Common and widespread in both countries.

**Red-footed Falcon** *Falco vespertinus* — (3) A dozen seen hunting at Histria in Romania on day 2.

**Eurasian Hobby** *Falco subbuteo* — (4) Several sightings of migrating individuals in both countries.

#### **SHRIKES: Laniidae (1)**

**Red-backed Shrike** *Lanius collurio* — (5) Many seen, mostly juveniles and females, in both countries.

#### **CROWS AND JAYS: Corvidae (6)**

**Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus glandarius* — (6) Many seen, often in flight, mostly in Bulgaria.

**Eurasian Magpie** *Pica pica* — (10) Common in both rural and urban habitats throughout.

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

**Rook** *Corvus frugilegus* — (7) Common. Flocks of 100s seen in farmland in Romania.

**Hooded Crow** *Corvus cornix* — (10) Common and widespread in both countries.

**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* — (2) Seen on days 8 and 9 in Bulgaria.

#### **TITS AND CHICKADEES: Paridae (2)**

**Eurasian Blue Tit** *Cyanistes caeruleus* — (1) One seen on day 3 at Baia in Romania.

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

#### **LARKS: Alaudidae (2)**

**Eurasian Skylark** *Alauda arvensis* — (1) Seen and heard in flight at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3.

**Crested Lark** *Galerida cristata* — (5) Scattered sightings in both countries, often at roadsides and around settlements. Eight at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3.

#### **REED WARBLERS: Acrocephalidae (2)**

**Eurasian Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* — (1) One at Lake Durankulak in Bulgaria on day 6.

**Marsh Warbler** *Acrocephalus palustris* — (1) One shown to us in the hand by a local bird bander at Lake Durankulak in Bulgaria on day 6.

#### **SWALLOWS AND MARTINS: Hirundinidae (4)**

**Bank Swallow** *Riparia riparia* — (4) A few occasionally seen with migrating Barn Swallows.

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

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica* — (1) Three at Nessebar on day 7.

**Common House-Martin** *Delichon urbicum* — (3) Some amongst bigger flocks of Barn Swallows.

#### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae (2)**

**Willow Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochilus* — (1) One seen on day 5 in Sveti Nikola in Bulgaria.

**Common Chiffchaff** *Phylloscopus collybita* — (6) Quite common, numerous sightings, and others heard, in both countries.

#### **LONG-TAILED TITS: Aegithalidae (1)**

**Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos caudatus* — (1) At least six seen in the Baltata Reserve in Bulgaria on day 7.

### **SYLVIID WARBLERS: Sylviidae (3)**

**Eurasian Blackcap** *Sylvia atricapilla* — (2) Two seen on day 3 at Jurilovca in Romania and one on Cape Kaliakra, Bulgaria, on day 5.

**Lesser Whitethroat** *Curruca curruca* — (2) Seen at Histria in Romania on day 2 and at Cape Kaliakra, Lake Shabla-Tuzla and Sveti Nikola in Bulgaria on day 5.

**Greater (Common) Whitethroat** *Curruca communis* — (1) One seen by Lake Burgas-Vaya in Bulgaria on day 8.

### **NUTHATCHES: Sittidae (1)**

**Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta europea* — (3) Seen on day 9 in the Ropotamo and Strandzha forests in Bulgaria: others heard.

### **TREECREEPERS: Certhiidae (1)**

**Short-toed Treecreeper** *Certhia brachydactyla* — (2) Seen in Bulgaria in the Baltata Reserve on day 7 and at Rosenets by our hotel on day 9.

### **STARLINGS: Sturnidae (1)**

**European Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris* — (10) Common in both countries, often in big flocks.

### **THRUSHES: Turdidae (2)**

**Song Thrush** *Turdus philomelos* — (1) One on day 9 in the garden of our hotel in Rosenets in Bulgaria.

**Eurasian Blackbird** *Turdus merula* — (2) Several on days 8 and 9 in the grounds of our hotel in Rosenets in Bulgaria.

### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS AND CHATS: Muscicapidae (6)**

**Spotted Flycatcher** *Muscicapa striata* — (6) Common in both countries, seen throughout.

**European Robin** *Erithacus rubecula* — (4) Several individual birds seen in Bulgaria.

**Red-breasted Flycatcher** *Ficedula hypoleuca* — (6) Many sightings of migrating birds.

**Common Redstart** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus* — (1) One seen on day 2 at Histria in Romania.

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros* — (2) Seen in Romania at Histria on day 2 and at Cheia on day 4.

**Whinchat** *Saxicola rubetra* — (1) One seen at Histria in Romania on day 2.

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae (3)**

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus* — (10) Common and widespread in both countries.

**Spanish Sparrow** *Passer hispaniolensis* — (2) 20 seen at Lake Shabla-Tuzla in Bulgaria on day 5.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* — (4) Only seen in rural areas, mainly in Romania.

### **PIPITS AND WAGTAILS: Motacillidae (3)**

**Gray Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea* — (1) Three seen on day 4 at Durankulak.

**White Wagtail** *Motacilla alba* — (10) Common and widespread. Many passage flocks seen.

**Tree Pipit** *Anthus trivialis* — (1) One seen at Jurilovca in Romania on day 3.

### **FINCHES AND EUPHONIAS: Fringillidae (4)**

**Common Chaffinch** *Fringilla coelebs* — (3) Seen in Bulgaria at Ropotamo, the Strandzha Forest, by Lake Mandra and in the hotel grounds at Rosenets.

**European Greenfinch** *Chloris chloris* — (2) Six seen at our hotel in Baia, Romania, on days 2 and 3.

**Eurasian Linnet** *Linaria cannabina* — (1) About 6 seen at a gas station between Bucharest and Constanta in Romania on day 1.

**European Goldfinch** *Carduelis carduelis* — (7) Common, small flocks seen in both countries.



### **OLD WORLD BUNTINGS: Emberizidae (1)**

**Corn Bunting** *Emberiza calandra* — (2) Dozens in farmland and on roadside wires around Dobrich in Bulgaria on days 5 and 6.

### **OTHER WILDLIFE:**

**Eurasian Red Squirrel** *Sciurus vulgaris* — (2) Singles seen on days 6 and 9 in Bulgaria.

**Roe Deer** *Capreolus capreolus* — (1) A group in a field by the highway on route to Sofia on day 10.

**Nutria (Coypu)** *Myocastor coypus* — (1) Two at Durankulak on day 6: an introduced, invasive, species.

**European Pond Turtle** *Emys orbicularis* — (1) Several seen on wetlands in Romania on day 2.

**Praying Mantis** *Mantis religiosa* — (1) A female found at Cheia, Romania, on day 4.

### **Butterflies:**

**Red Admiral** *Vanessa atalanta* — (5)

**Painted Lady** *Vanessa cardui* — (4)

**Clouded Yellow** *Colias croceus* — (2)

**Small White** *Pieris rapae* — (5)

**Large White** *Pieris brassica* — (5)

**Eastern Bath White** *Pontia edusa* — (3)

**European Common Blue** *Polyommatus icarus* — (2)

**Sliver-washed Fritillary** *Argynnis paphia* — (1)

**Speckled Wood** *Pararge aegeria* — (1)