

Transylvania with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust,
Trip Report, 3rd to 10th June 2016

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

Transylvania

2016



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Top row, l to r: the view from Viscri fortified church; tree hugging at Marcheasa; the meadows at Crit
Middle row, l to r: Brown Bears at Sinca Noua

Bottom row, l to r: *Anacamptis coriophora*, *Clematis integrifolia*, *Melampyrum cristatum* and *Jurinea mollis*

A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday (as well as a handful of previous Transylvania photos) can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157669267009532>

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| # | DATE | LOCATIONS & NOTES |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| 1 | 3 rd June | Luton to Sibiu. o/n Crit |
| 2 | 4 th June | Around Sigisoara: Apold and Breite. o/n Crit. |
| 3 | 5 th June | Marcheasa wood pasture. o/n Crit |
| 4 | 6 th June | Viscri and Crit. o/n Crit |
| 5 | 7 th June | Dumbravitsa and Bran Castle. o/n Zarnesti |
| 6 | 8 th June | Zarnesti Gorge and Piatra Craiului National Park. o/n Zarnesti |
| 7 | 9 th June | Sinaia, Bucegi Mountain, Brasov. o/n Zarnesti |
| 8 | 10 th June | Stramba Valley, nr Sinca Noua. Balea Lac cable car, Fagaras Mountains. Return to UK |

The following lists are by no means complete, as our leader was incapacitated for the second half of the trip with appendicitis, but hopefully go some way to helping give an idea of what can be expected during the trip.

| ENGLISH NAME | LATIN NAME | 3rd | 4th | 5th | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10 th |
|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants) | | | | | | | | | |
| Pygmy Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| Family Ardeidae (Heron) | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | X | | | | | | |
| Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Family Ciconiidae (Storks) | | | | | | | | | |
| White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | X | X | X | X | X | | | |
| Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures) | | | | | | | | | |
| Lesser Spotted Eagle | <i>Aquila pomarina</i> | | X | X | | | | | X |
| Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X |
| Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| Family Falconidae (Falcons) | | | | | | | | | |
| Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | | X | X | X | | | | X |
| Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges) | | | | | | | | | |
| Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | | | | H | | | | |
| Family Laridae (Gulls) | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | | | | | X | | | |
| Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves) | | | | | | | | | |
| Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon | <i>Columba livia</i> | | X | X | | | | | X |
| Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | | X | X | | | | | X |
| Stock Dove | <i>Columba oenas</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | | X | X | | | | | X |
| Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | | | | | | | | X |
| Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos) | | | | | | | | | |
| Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | | H | X | X | | | | X |
| Family Strigidae (Owls) | | | | | | | | | |
| Tawny Owl | <i>Strix aluco</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| Family Upupidae (Hoopoes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | | X | X | | | | | X |
| Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters) | | | | | | | | | |
| Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| Family Picidae (Woodpeckers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | | H | | | | | | |
| Grey-headed Woodpecker | <i>Picus canus</i> | | | | | | X | | |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | X | X | | | | | |
| Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | | H | | | | | | |

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| Family Alaudidae (Larks) | | | | | | | | | |
| Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Woodlark | <i>Lullula arborea</i> | | | X | | | | | |
| Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins) | | | | | | | | | |
| Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits) | | | | | | | | | |
| Tree Pipit | <i>Anthus trivialis</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla (alba) alba</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | | | | | | X | | X |
| Blue-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla (flava) flava</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Black-headed Wagtail | <i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i> | | X | | | | | | |
| Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers and chats) | | | | | | | | | |
| Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Family Turdidae (Thrushes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Fieldfare | <i>Turdus pilaris</i> | | | | | | | | X |
| Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | | H | | | | | | |
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| Garden Warbler | <i>Sylvia borin</i> | | | | | | | | X |
| Lesser Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia curruca</i> | | | | X | | | | |
| Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia communis</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Marsh Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus palustris</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers) | | | | | | | | | |
| Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Paridae (Tits) | | | | | | | | | |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Marsh Tit | <i>Poecile palustris</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Blue Tit | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits) | | | | | | | | | |
| Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudata</i> | X | | | | | | | |
| Family Sittidae (Nuthatches) | | | | | | | | | |
| Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Laniidae (Shrikes) | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Great Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius excubitor</i> | | X | | | | | | |
| Family Corvidae (Crows) | | | | | | | | | |
| Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Sturnidae (Starlings) | | | | | | | | | |
| Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Family Oriolidae (Orioles) | | | | | | | | | |
| Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | | | H | | | | | H |
| Family Passeridae (Sparrows) | | | | | | | | | |
| House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | X | X | | | | | | |
| Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | X | | | | | | | |

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| Family Fringillidae (Finches) | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawfinch | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | | X | | | | | | X |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | | X | X | | | | | |
| Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | | X | X | | | | | |
| Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | X | X | | | | | |
| Family Emberizidae (Buntings) | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | | X | X | | | | | |
| Corn Bunting | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> | | X | X | | | | | |

| AMPHIBIANS | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Eastern Tree Frog | <i>Hyla orientalis</i> | The green tree frog, Marcheasa, 5 th (a recent 'split' from European Tree Frog, <i>Hyla arborea</i>). |
| Yellow-bellied Toad | <i>Bombina variegata</i> | Common in the shallow pools amongst the wood pasture, adults and tadpoles: Breite, 4 th ; Marcheasa, 5 th . |
| Marsh Frog | <i>Rana ridibunda</i> | One in the stream near Sinca Noua, 10 th |
| REPTILES | | |
| Eastern Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta bilineata</i> | Crit village |
| Sand Lizard | <i>Lacerta agilis</i> | Apold, Breite, Marcheasa |
| MAMMALS | | |
| a pipistrelle | <i>Pipistrellus sp.</i> | The bat around the hotel garden, 4 th |
| Wild Boar | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | A large family group by the roadside on the way back from the bear hide, 8 th |
| Roe Deer | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | One by the roadside, 8 th |
| European Beaver | <i>Castor fiber</i> | A lodge at Dumbravitsa, 7 th |
| Brown Bear | <i>Ursus arctos</i> | Feeding signs at Breite, with ant hills turned out and an obvious path through the long grass, 4 th . 12 adults seen at the bear hide, near Sinca Noua, 8 th |
| Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | Big sett at the base of one of the hills, Apold, 4 th |

| BUTTERFLIES | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Large Skipper | <i>Ochlodes sylvanus</i> | |
| Green Hairstreak | <i>Callophrys rubi</i> | |
| Small Blue | <i>Cupido minimus</i> | |
| Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i> | |
| Mazarine Blue | <i>Cyaniris semiargus</i> | |
| Large Copper | <i>Lycaena dispar</i> | |
| Wood White | <i>Leptidea sinapis</i> | |
| Clouded Yellow | <i>Colias crocea</i> | |
| Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary | <i>Clossiana selene</i> | |
| Painted Lady | <i>Vanessa cardui</i> | |
| Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | |
| Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | |
| Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | |
| Chestnut Heath | <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i> | |

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| OTHER INVERTEBRATES | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| ODONATA | | |
| Emperor | <i>Anax imperator</i> | One hawking over grassland, Breite, 4 th |
| Broad-bodied Chaser | <i>Libellula depressa</i> | One chasing along ditch, Breite, 4 th |
| MOTHS | | |
| Bordered Sallow <i>family Noctuidae</i> | <i>Pyrrhia umbra</i> | One resting on yellow rattle: Apold, 4 th |
| a micro moth <i>family Tinaeidae</i> | <i>Euplocamus anthracinalis</i> | The black moth with white spots at Breite, 4 th . Larvae feed on bracket fungi on veteran trees. |
| BEETLES: Cerambycidae | | |
| | <i>Cerambyx cerdo</i> | Elytra and gallery tunnels, veteran trees at Breite, 4 th : The large longhorn up the tree, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| | <i>Cerambyx scolopi</i> | The smaller long-horned longhorn, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| | <i>Rhagium sycophanta</i> | The grey-brown longhorn: 3 adults, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| | <i>Pedestredorcadion pedestre</i> | The stumpy longhorn with white 'go faster' stripes, on the floor: Breite and Marcheasa |
| BEETLES: MISCELLANEOUS | | |
| a scarlet click beetle <i>family Elateridae</i> | <i>Ampedus sanguineus</i> | red click beetle, on a fallen oak, Breite 4 th |
| Stag Beetle <i>family Lucanidae</i> | <i>Lucanus cervus</i> | Several males flying around the veteran oaks, Breite, 4 th . A courting pair, Marcheasa, 5 th . |
| Hermit Scarab Beetle <i>family Scarabaeidae</i> | <i>Osmoderma eremita</i> | Large amounts of frass (feeding remains) from this European protected species found beneath the broken bough on a veteran oak, Breite, 4 th |
| Cockchafer <i>family Scarabaeidae</i> | <i>Melolontha melolontha</i> | Common on the wing at Apold, 4 th |
| Rose Chafer <i>family Scarabaeidae</i> | <i>Cetonia aurata</i> | The green jewel-like chafer, eg Breite, 4 th |
| MISCELLANEOUS | | |
| Roman Snail | <i>Helix pomatia</i> | |
| Hornet | <i>Vespa crabro</i> | eg around the veteran trees, Breite, 4 th |
| Tadpole Shrimp | <i>Triops cancriformis</i> | In one of the buffalo ponds, Marcheasa, 5 th |

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Selected Plant Species

| | SCIENTIFIC NAME | ENGLISH NAME | NOTES |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| DICOTYLEDONS | | | |
| Asteraceae | | | |
| | <i>Cirsium rivulare</i> | Brook Thistle | Tall multi-headed thistle, Sinca Noua, 10 th |
| | <i>Jurinea mollis</i> | | Tall, dense-headed spineless 'thistles', Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Tragopogon orientalis</i> | Eastern Goatsbeard | Large yellow Tragopogon, Apold, 4 th |
| Asclepiadiaceae | | | |
| | <i>Vincetoxicum hirundaria</i> | Swallow-wort | |
| | <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> | Milk-weed | Broad, succulent-ish leaves: Apold, 4 th |
| Boraginaceae | | | |
| | <i>Anchusa barrelieri</i> | | Smaller pale blue flowers. Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Buglossoides purpureocaerulea</i> | | Larger, deep blue flowers. Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Cerithe minor</i> | Honeywort | Yellow flowers: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> | Hound's-tongue | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Echium vulgare</i> | Viper's Bugloss | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Lithospermum arvense</i> | Field Gromwell | Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Nonea pulla</i> | | Black flowers: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Symphytum officinale</i> | Common Comfrey | Roadsides, 4 th |
| Brassicaceae | | | |
| | <i>Crambe tataria</i> | Tatar Kale | The large 'tumbleweed' kale near Viscri |
| | <i>Erysimum odoratum</i> | Scented Wallflower | Viscri, 6 th |
| Campanulaceae | | | |
| | <i>Campanula patula</i> | Spreading Bellflower | Pinky mauve flowers, spreading petals: 4 th |
| | <i>Campanula sibirica</i> | Siberian Bellflower | Tall, branching bellflower on the hillocks: Apold, 4 th |
| Caryophyllaceae | | | |
| | <i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i> | Carthusian Pink | Cerise pink: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> | Ragged Robin | Damp ditches: Breite, 4 th |
| Euphorbiaceae | | | |
| | <i>Euphorbia cyparissia</i> | Cypress Spurge | Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Fabaceae | | | |
| | <i>Chamaecytisus heuffelii</i> | | Creamy-yellow flowers, whorled leaves on almost woody stem: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Genista sagittalis</i> | | Marcheasa, 5 th |
| | <i>Lathyrus aphaca</i> | Yellow Pea | Yellow flowers, clasping paired spade-shaped leaves: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Lathyrus nissolia</i> | Grass Vetchling | Cerise flower, very fine stems/leaves: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Onobrychis viciifolia</i> | Sainfoin | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Ononis arvensis</i> | Restharrow | Leaves: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Vicia cf pannonica</i> | | Creamy-white flowers: Apold, 4 th |
| Geraniaceae | | | |
| | <i>Geranium phaeum</i> | Dusky Cranesbill | Woodland edge, coming down from Breite, 4 th |

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|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Lamiaceae | | | |
| | <i>Ajuga genevensis</i> | Blue Bugle | Marcheasa, 5 th |
| | <i>Betonica officinalis</i> | Betony | Leaves: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Phlomis tuberosa</i> | | Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Salvia nutans</i> | Nodding Sage | Steppe Salvia, on the hummocks, Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Salvia nemorosa</i> | Balkan Clary | Common roadside Salvia. 4 th |
| | <i>Salvia pratensis</i> | Meadow Clary | Big purple flowers: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Stachys germanica</i> | Downy Woundwort | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Stachys recta</i> | Yellow Woundwort | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> | Hedge Woundwort | Breite, 4 th |
| | <i>Thymus sp.</i> | a Thyme | Common the ant hills, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Linaceae | | | |
| | <i>Linum flavum</i> | Yellow Flax | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Linum hirsutum</i> | Hairy Flax | Pale blue flax, Viscri, 6 th |
| Loranthaceae | | | |
| | <i>Loranthus europaeus</i> | Summer Mistletoe | The mistletoe over the oak trees, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Orobanchaceae | | | |
| | <i>Melampyrum cristatum</i> | Crested Cow-wheat | Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Orobanche cf alba</i> | Thyme? Broomrape | Pale yellowy spikes, parasitic: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Rhinanthus major</i> | Large Yellow Rattle | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Rhinanthus minor</i> | Common Yellow Rattle | Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Oxalidaceae | | | |
| | <i>Oxalis dillenii</i> | | Yellow flower, 'trifolium' leaf: Apold, 4 th |
| Papaveraceae | | | |
| | <i>Chelidonium majus</i> | Greater Celandine | Near the church, Crit |
| Polygalaceae | | | |
| | <i>Polygala major</i> | Large Milkwort | Pink spikes: Apold, 4 th . |
| Ranunculaceae | | | |
| | <i>Adonis vernalis</i> | Yellow Pheasant's-Eye | Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Clematis integrifolia</i> | | Viscri, 6 th |
| | <i>Clematis recta</i> | Upright Clematis | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | Meadow Buttercup | Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i> | Bulbous Buttercup | Breite, 4 th |
| | <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i> | Celery-leaved Buttercup | In the buffalo ponds, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Rosaceae | | | |
| | <i>Fragaria vesca</i> | Wild Strawberry | Marcheasa, often on the ant hills, 5 th |
| | <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i> | Dropwort | Common in the grasslands in the west |
| | <i>Potentilla recta</i> | Tormentil | Marcheasa, 5 th |
| | <i>Rosa gallica</i> | Provence Rose | Large, showy pink 'dog rose' in the west |
| | <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> | Great Burnet | Damp area, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Rutaceae | | | |
| | <i>Dictamnus albus</i> | Burning Bush | Viscri, 6 th |
| Scrophulariaceae | | | |
| | <i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i> | Purple Mullein | Dark purple spike: Apold, 4 th |
| | <i>Veronica austriaca</i> | | Tall, pale-blue spikes: Apold, 4 th |

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| MONOCOTYLEDONS | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Alismataceae | | |
| <i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i> | Common Water Plantain | In the buffalo ponds, Marcheasa, 5 th |
| Asparagaceae | | |
| <i>Muscari tenuiflora</i> | | 'tassel hyacinth', Apold, 4 th |
| Colchicaceae | | |
| <i>Colchicum autumnale</i> | Meadow Saffron | Leaves in the meadows |
| Melanthiaceae | | |
| <i>Veratrum album</i> | White False Helleborine | Tall spikes in the meadows, Sinca Noua |
| Orchidaceae | | |
| <i>Anacamptis coriophora</i> | Bug Orchid | One spike, deep maroon, Apold, 4 th |
| <i>Dactylorhiza sp.</i> | A marsh orchid | In the meadows near Sinca Noua, 10 th |
| <i>Platanthera chlorantha</i> | Greater Butterfly Orchid | Spikes along the roadside, on the drive up to the Fagaras cable car, 10 th |
| Poaceae | | |
| <i>Stipa pennata agg.</i> | | The delicate steppe grass, Apold, 4 th |