

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



**Bulgaria 2015**

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	26 <sup>th</sup> April	Arrival. Transfer to Sozopol.
2	27 <sup>th</sup> April	Bourgas wetlands: Mandra, Atanasovsko and Bourgas Lakes, Pomorie salt pans
3	28 <sup>th</sup> April	Ropotamo Reserve
4	29 <sup>th</sup> April	Panitsovo; Goritsa; Baltata; White Lagoon cliffs; Kavarna
5	30 <sup>th</sup> April	Cape Kaliakra. Kaliakra Steppe. Bolata Valley
6	1 <sup>st</sup> May	Durankulak and Shabla Lakes
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Yailata Archaeological Reserve. Rusalka Steppe
8	3 <sup>rd</sup> May	

### **LIST OF TRAVELLERS**

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A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen at  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/sets/72157651821729829/>

**26<sup>th</sup> April.** A slightly delayed start to our flight nevertheless got us to Burgas on time, arriving just after a heavy thunder storm! After meeting our guide, Mladen, and our driver for the week, we headed south as dusk fell, skirting through the edge of Burgas and on to Sozopol, our home for the next three nights, where we were greeted with the first of many *schopka* salads and a meal of Balkan proportions.

**27<sup>th</sup> April. Burgas wetlands.** The city of Burgas is surrounded by three lakes: Mandra, a deep reservoir; Burgas, a shallow freshwater lake with extensive reedbeds around its western end; and Atanasovsko, a shallow saline lake to the north, with more salt pans at Pomorie, a little further along the coast. Today, we explored each in turn.

We spent much of the morning around Mandra Lake, where the water levels were so high that much of the surrounding farmland had turned to marshland, with Collared Pratincoles hawking high overhead and a large swirling group of Ruff in the distance. The amphibians were obviously loving the wet conditions, with a raucous cacophony of Marsh Frogs always in the background, alongside the more musical 'boop'ing of Yellow-bellied Toads. A handful of European Pond Terrapins were sunning themselves on various fallen logs.

White Stork nests adorned the telegraph posts through the village, with colonies of Spanish Sparrows nesting in each.

Turning over some roadside rubbish revealed our first snake, a lovely Caspian Whip Snake, which soon disappeared into the undergrowth. Later on, another roadside stop gave us much better views of another individual that wasn't very keen to move on!

As the weather warmed up, so the raptors began to appear. Marsh Harriers were common, with the migratory Steppe Buzzard and Lesser Spotted Eagle in smaller numbers. A single Hobby zoomed through.

Also up and soaring were the pelicans, and we eventually got great views of a single White Pelican in amongst the more numerous Dalmatian Pelicans.

The water levels at Atanasovsko were too high for the hoped-for waders, with the large flocks swirling about way across at the other side. But while we took advantage of the picnic table for our lunch, an impressive migration of soaring birds passed over us: large numbers of Steppe Buzzards, along with several each of Lesser Spotted Eagle and Sparrowhawk, two Black Storks and a single Osprey, followed not long after by a large kettle of White Storks.

Moving on to Pomorie, we still couldn't find any waders, but instead enjoyed the tern show: a large breeding colony of Sandwich Terns, along with a handful of Common Terns and two pairs of Little Terns. A flock of 17 Black Terns dropped in briefly, and further around the corner we got good views of a trio of White-winged Terns and a couple of Whiskered Terns, to complete our set for the day.

Back to the shallower western end of Burgas Lake, where a wonderful marshy area was alive with birds: a couple of Squacco Herons flew up, a group of Glossy Ibis were courting in the shallows and a party of Ferruginous Duck were flushed by a passing Marsh Harrier, while Spotted Redshank and Wood Sandpiper waded in the shallows and a single Spoonbill flew in. Overhead, a great cloud of White Storks drifted slowly northwards.

The muddy track held plenty of footprints, although identifying them to species proved quite tricky. Various cats and dogs were joined by Badger, Pond Terrapin and perhaps Otter: we certainly found plenty of Otter spraint on a concrete bridge.

Turning one final piece of rubbish revealed about 5 Dice Snakes and at least one more Caspian Whip Snake.



***Centaurea napulifera*** on the Kaliakra steppe



***Adonis verna*** on the Kaliakra steppe



***Fritillaria pontica*** in the Ropotamo woods



The endangered ***Tulipa thracica***, Ropotamo

**28<sup>th</sup> April. Ropotamo** We spent the day in the company of one of the country's top herpetologists, in one of the most herptile rich areas of Bulgaria, home to the rare Reddish Whip Snake and Leopard Snake, amongst other wonderful beasts... alas, we couldn't track either of these local specialities down, but were more than happy with our views of Caspian Whip Snake, Grass Snake, Dice Snake and a lovely little juvenile Nose-horned Viper during the day, along with some very handsome Eastern Green Lizards posing out in the sun, and a wonderful haul of tortoises: both Hermann's and Spur-thighed.

While the reptiles were the main target for the day, we also enjoyed some great wild flowers. In the sunny oak woodland, highlights were a couple of local specialities: *Fritillaria pontica* with its green and purple bell-shaped flowers, and a single bud of the Red Data Book *Tulipa thracica*. Eastern Bonelli's Warbler and Short-toed Treecreeper sang, along with an abundance of Nightingales, while Grey-headed Woodpecker called nearby.

A flowery bank by the roadside was full of *Anemone pavonina*, in a range of pinks and reds, with a Middle Spotted Woodpecker calling.

We ended the afternoon at an area of stabilised sand dunes and open woodland, where *Iris suaveolens* grew and where the rain finally caught up with us...

A relatively early end to the day gave some of us the chance to explore the old town of Sozopol, with its well preserved ottoman-style houses and narrow streets.

**29<sup>th</sup> April. Travelling north.** Bidding farewell to Sozopol, we headed north today, through Burgas and then across the foothills of the Balkan Range. A pair of Honey Buzzards heading north and the occasional Marsh Harrier were the only sign of northbound traffic today, so we moved on from the hill tops to an area of open oak woodland near the village of Panitsovo. Here we found the first returning Red-backed Shrike of the spring, a pair of Ortolan Buntings coming in to drink, a couple of wonderfully showy Hawfinches and a pair of more secretive Wrynecks, one of which eventually perched up in the open for everyone to see... even Roger.

Our next stop was the denser oak woodlands at Goritsa. Here we met up with a Swedish researcher, whose obsession (sorry, study species) is Semi-collared Flycatchers. With a whole array of nestboxes set out in the woods, he is studying the relationship between this species and its two black-and-white cousins, Pied Flycatcher and Collared Flycatcher. We could hear Semi-collared Flycatchers singing nearby (along with a couple of Wood Warblers) and some of us got good, but brief views of a male.

Also a fan of the nest boxes, and especially of the egg buffet held inside them, is the Forest Dormouse, and we were lucky to find one, trying to sleep off his night-time snack of a clutch of 8 Great Tit eggs. This particular individual managed to give his Swedish nemesis the slip, but a second animal found later on wasn't so lucky, and was translocated a few kilometres down the road, away from the flycatcher study.

Also in this forest were abundant Meadow Lizards, scuttling about through the leaf litter and quite frequently climbing the trees. Definitely nothing 'meadowy' about their favoured habitat here...

With lunch out of the way, we pushed on north, dropping down off the hills and stopping at an impressive area of wet woodland, in the Balata Reserve. Here the wet woodland floor was dense with the tall *Ranunculus velutinus* buttercup, with scattered plants of the Summer Snowflake *Leucojum aestivum* also here. Our main target, however, were the Semi-collared Flycatchers again, and this time we all got good views of two or three birds, singing and defending territories. Single Middle Spotted and Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were also seen here.

We finished the day at the chalk cliffs near White Lagoon, where a wonderful Eagle Owl was nonchalantly napping in his favourite cave, while Alpine Swifts flew along the cliff top. A pair of European Glass Lizard were disturbed *in flagrante* in the ditch, while we were admiring the patches of *Matthiola odoratissima*, a sweetly-scented stock growing on the soft cliff.

**30<sup>th</sup> April. Kaliakra.** Once again, the forecast was for worsening weather by the afternoon. And once again, the forecast was wrong.

Driving out to the cape, we stopped at an area of heavily grazed steppe that was alive with larks: Skylark, Short-toed Lark and Calandra Lark were all singing loudly above us, with a couple of pairs of Isabelline Wheatear also displaying. But the main target here was Stone Curlew, and we eventually had good views of three different birds. At our feet, the wonderful steppe flora included great swathes of *Iris pumila*, although unfortunately only a handful were in flower. We also found the dark blue *Muscari botryoides*, the delicate pale *Hyacinthella leucophaea* and the white knapweed *Centaurea napulifera*.

On to the cape itself, and the interesting Byzantine ruins. Initially quite quiet, with low flying Alpine Swifts buzzing us and Shag on the rocks at the base of the cliff, we made our way out to the point, where a pair of Pied Wheatears were setting up their territory for the breeding season. A surprise here was a Black-headed Bunting, fresh in.

Offshore, a single Arctic Skua was sat on the sea, along with a handful of Black-throated Divers. Further out, the occasional glimpse of back was all we could see of the Black Sea Porpoises fishing offshore, while even further out a pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins put in a brief appearance for some of us.

Back to the ruins, and it seemed the migrants had been arriving during our time here. One small area of bushes produced a male Common Redstart, two Pied Flycatchers, Barred Warbler, Blackcap, three species of Wheatear (Northern, Pied and Eastern Black-eared) and best of all, a singing Thrush Nightingale which actually put on quite a show, for this normally very shy species, flycatching and hopping up onto the fence.

Nearby, three Yellow Wagtails of the 'dombrowski' form that breeds in Romania, were busy feeding; a male Ortolan Bunting appeared and just as quickly disappeared; Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes were both present on the bushes; and a pair of Whinchats sat photogenically up on the Yellow Asphodels.

After lunch, we explored the amazingly flower-rich steppe grassland just inland from the cape. The key attraction here was the amazing display of the blood-red Narrow-leaved Peony *Peonia tenuifolia*, a very special plant of the Pontic steppe in full bloom. Amongst the red were splashes of yellow *Adonis vernalis*, creamy *Scutellaria orientalis*, and purple-blue *Vinca herbacea*. *Onosma taurica*, *Astragalus cornutus* and a single spike of Green-winged Orchid completed the botanical excitement.

At the scrubby margins, a male Lesser Grey Shrike hunted, alongside a Woodchat Shrike, while a Hobby rested in the top of a bush.

From the steppe, we dropped down into a wonderful hidden valley, where Great Reed Warbler shouted from the reedbeds, a pair of male Hoopoes chased back and forth across the cliffs, a trio of Purple Herons flew off and we heard both Little Crake and Little Bittern calling from the marsh. Overhead, a male Red-footed Falcon headed in one direction, three Bee-eaters headed in the other.

**1<sup>st</sup> May. Durankulak and Shabla.** A great day around the lakes, in the north of Bulgaria up against the Romanian border. Not the most scenic part of the world, with a definite feel of the Fens about the foggy Dobruja Plains at times. But the wildlife more than made up for it...

We started the day at the northern corner of Durankulak Lake, where Great Reed and Reed Warblers chuntered from the reedbeds, Marsh Frogs made their incessant racket and Fire-bellied Toads pooped quietly in the marshes. Whiskered, Black and White-winged Terns all flicked over the top of the reeds, a White-tailed Eagle loomed past in the fog, a couple of Squacco Herons showed nicely in flight, a flock of Greenshank flew over and a little group of Ruff flew about too. But try as we might, we couldn't hear any singing Paddyfield Warbler this time...



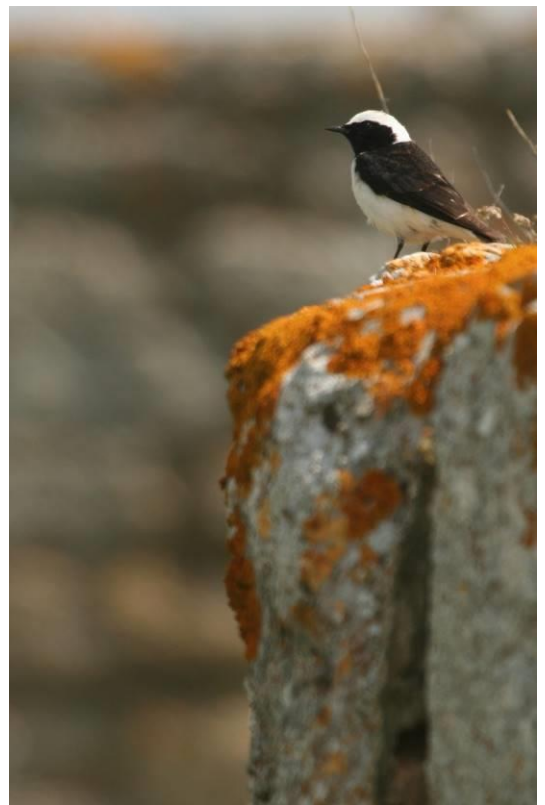
Male **Whinchat**, Kaliakra



**Eastern Green Lizard**, Ropotamo



**Meadow Lizard**, Goritsa oak woodland



Male **Pied Wheatear** at Kaliakra

Moving south to Shabla Lake, our first spot proved popular with holiday making Romanians, making the most of the long May Day weekend: a rather noisy barbeque was going on, which rather scuppered our hoped-for crake viewing. A singing Golden Oriole was competing with the music, along with the usual chorus of frogs and Nightingales, while out in the reeds a couple of Savi's Warblers churred away.

As we drove away from the lake, luck was definitely on our side: a small male Wild Cat ran across the road in front of the bus and disappeared into the long grass at the verge. As we drove closer, he broke for cover and bounded across a strip of ploughed field before disappearing into the vegetation at the other side, giving everyone a clear view of him out in the open. A brilliant piece of luck, and probably the sighting of the trip.

A celebratory lunch was at the Dolphin Hotel, with a sea view from our table, but alas no dolphins.

After fish soup and barbequed chicken, we explored another marshy margin of Shabla Lake. Fewer people this time, and with the sun out. Along the stream we found Wood Sandpipers, Garganey and Purple Heron. Corn Buntings sang from almost every bush, as well as a couple of Northern Wheatear and a Tawny Pipit or two. Out over the reeds, a pair of Marsh Harriers were courting, the male bringing his mate some prey, followed by nesting material. Unfortunately we could only find a single Souslik burrow, and none of the animal itself...

At the nearby brackish lagoon, a group of Black Terns with a single very handsome White-winged Tern were flicking over the surface, along with hundreds and hundreds of hirundines. Coot, Garganey and at least 30 Ferruginous Ducks were out on the water, with Nightingale, Red-backed Shrike and Barred Warbler in the bushes.

We finished the day with a paddle in the Black Sea and a surprise Little Bittern flying in off the sea, fresh in from Turkey and beyond.

**2<sup>nd</sup> May. Yailata Cliffs; Rusalka steppe.** Again the day dawned foggy and continued to be fairly cold and overcast.

We spent the morning at the archaeological reserve at Yailata, where distractions from the Byzantine fort, 4<sup>th</sup> century BC necropolis and 6<sup>th</sup> millennium BC cave dwellings came in the form several pairs of Pied Wheatear setting up their territories along the cliff; plenty of singing Calandra Larks overhead; Black-throated Divers, some distant Black Sea Porpoise and a single close-in Yelkouan Shearwater off shore; and a very good population (indeed, the largest population in Bulgaria) of *Paeonia peregrine*, many of which were in full bloom.

After lunch, we went on an ultimately fruitless search for Sousliks. Exploring a couple of areas of good looking steppe habitat, we found plenty more of the narrow-leaved *Paeonia tenuifolia*, a pair of very confiding Stone Curlews tending to their nest, a fly-by female Pallid Harrier, singing Wood Lark and Short-toed Lark and Tawny Pipits, shrikes on every bush, carpets of wild flowers including some impressive patches of *Scutellaria orientalis* and, slightly less impressive, the bastard-toadflax *Thesium simplex*. But, alas, no Sousliks...

**3<sup>rd</sup> May. South to Burgas.** After a morning of driving, we paid a visit to Ivo, the tortoise man, who showed us round the impressive Geo Chelonia Tortoise Centre and introduced us to some of his many charges, including the rather wonderful Pancake Tortoises. Overhead, raptor migration included our first Montagu's Harrier, Black Kite, Short-toed Eagle and a single Black Stork.

After lunch, we spent some time at the salt pans outside Pomorie, where the hordes of Little Stint, Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper also hid a couple of lovely Broad-billed Sandpipers. On the beach, we added Sanderling and Turnstone to our ever growing bird list, some handsome Black-throated Divers swam just offshore and we finally caught site of a calling Yellow-bellied Toad just behind the beach.





**White-winged Tern**, Shabla Lake



**European Pond Terrapin**, Mandra Lake



***Onosma taurica***, Kaliakra steppe



***Paeonia peregrine*** in flower at Yailata

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<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)</b>									
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		X	X	X		X		X
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		X						X
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X	X	X		X		X
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		X						X
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		X						
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		X				X		
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		X				X		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		X				X		
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)</b>									
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>					X			
<b>Family Gaviidae (Divers)</b>									
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>					X		X	
<b>Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>									
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		X				H		
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>								X
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X		X				X
<b>Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)</b>									
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>							X	
<b>Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)</b>									
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		X						
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		X		X				
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)</b>									
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
(Mediterranean) Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>					X	X	X	
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>		X			X	X		
<b>Family Ardeidae (Herons)</b>									
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>					X	X		
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		X		X				
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola rolloides</i>		X				X		
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X		X		X		
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		X				X		
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X		X		X		X
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X		X	X	X		
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>									
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		X						X
<b>Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</b>									
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X						
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		X						
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)</b>									
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		X				X		
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>			X					
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		X						X
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>								X
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>								X
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>								X
Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>							X	
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>		X		X	X		X	X
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>					X		X	
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>				X				X
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>		X	X	X	X			

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<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons)</b>									
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					X			X
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		X			X			
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)</b>									
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		H				H		
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>					H			
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X			X	X		X
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X			X	X		X
<b>Family Haematopidae (Oystercatchers)</b>									
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		X						X
<b>Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)</b>									
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X						X
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		X						X
<b>Family Burhinidae (Stone Curlews)</b>									
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>					X		X	
<b>Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)</b>									
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareolus pratincola</i>		X						
<b>Family Charadriidae (Plovers)</b>									
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		X						X
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X						X
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)</b>									
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>								X
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>								X
Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>								X
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>								X
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		X				X		X
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>		X						X
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>						H		X
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>						X		
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>								X
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		X						
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		X				X		X
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls)</b>									
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				X				X
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyophaga melanocephala</i>		X						X
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Stercorariidae (Skuas)</b>									
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>					X			
<b>Family Sternidae (Terns)</b>									
Little Tern	<i>Sternella albifrons</i>		X						X
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		X	X	X		X	X	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalassarche sandwichensis</i>		X					X	X
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		X				X		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		X				X		
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>		X				X		X
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>									
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		X		X	X			X
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			H	H		X	X	X
<b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>									
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		X	H	X	X	H	X	X

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<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>									
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>				X				
Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>		H	H	H				
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>									
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X	X		X			X	X
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				X	X		X	X
<b>Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)</b>									
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>			H	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</b>									
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>					X	H		
<b>Family Coraciidae (Rollers)</b>									
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		X		X	X			
<b>Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>									
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			X					
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			H					
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			H	H				
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>			H	X				
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>				X				
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				X				
<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>									
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>						X		X
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>				X		H	X	
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>					X		X	
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>					X	X	X	
<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)</b>									
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						X		
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>			X	X	X			X
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</b>									
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>					X	X	X	
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				X	X	X	X	
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>		H				X	X	X
'Romanian' Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) dombrowskii</i>					X			
<b>Family Muscipidae (Chats and Flycatchers)</b>									
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				H	X			
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H	X	X	H	H
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>					X			
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>					X			
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				X	X			H
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				X	X	X	X	
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>					X		X	
Eastern Black-eared Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe (hispanica) melanoleuca</i>					X			
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>					X		X	
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					X	X	X	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>				X	X	X	X	
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					X	X	X	
Semi-collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>				X				
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>					X	X		
<b>Family Turdidae (Flycatchers and Chats)</b>									
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			X	X	X			
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		H	X	X	X	X	X	X

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<b>Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)</b>									
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>				X	X	X		
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H	X	X	X	H	
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>					X		H	
<b>Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)</b>									
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		H				H		
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H			X	X		
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X			X	X		
<b>Family Locustellidae (Locustellid Warblers)</b>									
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>						H		
<b>Family Cettiidae (Bush Warbler)</b>									
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H			X	H		H
<b>Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)</b>									
Eastern Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus orientalis</i>			H					
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			H		X	X		
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>				H				
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		X	H	H	X	X	X	
<b>Family Paridae ( Tits)</b>									
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			H	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			X	X	X	X		
<b>Family Panuridae (Bearded Tits)</b>									
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>		X						
<b>Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)</b>									
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>				X				
<b>Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)</b>									
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>			H	X				
<b>Family Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>									
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				X	X	X	X	X
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>			X	X	X	X		
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					X	X	X	
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows)</b>									
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>				X	X	X	X	X
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>						X	X	
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>			X					
<b>Family Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>									
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Oriolidae (Orioles)</b>									
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>						H		
<b>Family Passeridae (Sparrows)</b>									
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		X			X	X	X	X
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>					X	X	X	
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches)</b>									
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		H	X	X	X	X		X
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				X	X			
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		H	X	X	X		D	

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<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>									
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>								
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>				X	X			
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>			H	X				
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>					X			
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>				X	X	X	X	X

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<b>MAMMALS (X = seen, D = dead on road, S = tracks or signs)</b>									
Black Sea Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena relicta</i>					X		X	
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>					X			
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>				D		S	S	
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>				D				
Wild Cat	<i>Felis sylvestris</i>		S?			S	X		
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		S						
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>		S			S	S	S	D
Beech Marten	<i>Martes foina</i>				D		D	S	
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			S					
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>			S					
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>						S		
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europeus</i>			S					D
Forest Dormouse	<i>Dryomys nitedula</i>				X				
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>				X				
Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>						S	S	
Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>						D		

<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>									
<b>Salamanders and Newts</b>									
Smooth Newt	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>			X					
<b>Frogs and Toads</b>									
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>						H		
Yellow-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina variegata</i>		H						X
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>		H	H					H
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>		X	X					
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		X	X	H	X	X		X
<b>REPTILES</b>									
<b>Tortoises and Terrapins</b>									
Hermann's Tortoise	<i>Testudo hermanni</i>			X					
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>			X					
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		X	X			X		
<b>Lizards</b>									
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>		X						
Meadow Lizard	<i>Lacerta praticola</i>				X				
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>			X				X	
European Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>				X				
<b>Snakes</b>									
Caspian Whip Snake	<i>Coluber caspius</i>		X	X					
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		X	X		X			
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		X	X		X	X		
Nose-horned Viper	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>			X					

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<b>BUTTERFLIES</b>									
<b>Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails)</b>									
Scarce Swallowtail			X		X				
Eastern Festoon			X						
<b>Family Pieridae (Whites)</b>									
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		X		X		X	X	
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>					X			
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>		X	X					
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>			X	X				
<b>Family Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers &amp; Hairstreaks)</b>									
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		X						
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>		X	X	X	X		X	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>		X					X	
<b>Family Nymphalidae (Vanessids and Fritillaries)</b>									
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			X	X	X	X	X	
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					X	X		
<b>Family Satyridae (Browns)</b>									
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>			X	X				
Large Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>			X					
<b>Family Hesperidae (Skippers)</b>									
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>		X						
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>				X				

<b>OTHER INVERTEBRATES</b>		
a longhorn beetle	<i>Pedestredorcadion pedestre</i>	Yailata
a longhorn beetle	<i>Rhagium mordax</i>	Gortisa, 29 <sup>th</sup>
Glow Worm	<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i>	Under stones: Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup> ; Kaliakra, 30 <sup>th</sup> ;
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	The flying black olive
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	The 'hidden valley', Kaliakra
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup>
a termite	<i>Reticulitermes flavicollis</i>	Colonies under rocks, Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup>
European Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulata</i>	Europe's largest centipede, with a poisonous bite
a praying mantis	<i>Empusa fasciata</i>	27 <sup>th</sup>
Woodland Cricket	<i>Nemobius sylvestris</i>	The small dark cricket in the leaf litter, Ropotamo
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa</i>	One at Pomorie saltlakes, 3rd
Pontic Jellyfish		In the Black Sea.

## BULGARIA SELECTED PLANTS

(just some of the more interesting plants noted during the trip)

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>		
Smoke Bush	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Ropotamo
<b>Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)</b>		
Sea Holly	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	On the dunes, Veleka
<b>Apocynaceae</b>		
Herbaceous Periwinkle	<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	The steppe periwinkle: Yailata & Kaliakra
<b>Asteraceae (Compositae)</b>		
	<i>Centaurea napulifera</i>	The big white knapweed on the steppe
Rough Cocklebur	<i>Xanthium strumerium</i>	An introduction from N America
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
Eastern Comfrey	<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	The white-flowered comfrey
Blue Gromwell	<i>Buglossoides purpureocaeruleum</i>	Frequently common at the roadside in wooded lowlands
	<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	The dark blue Anchusa
	<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	The purple-blue Anchusa with wavy leaves
	<i>Onosma taurica</i>	The golden-drop on the Kaliakra steppe
Common Gromwell	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	
<b>Brassicaceae</b>		
Sea Kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	On the dunes at Durankulak
	<i>Matthiola odoratissima</i>	On White Lagoon cliffs. A Bulgarian RDB species.
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
Wood Spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Ropotamo
Myrtle Spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	The glaucous, spreading spurge on the steppe
Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Common roadside weed
Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Common field weed
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
	<i>Astragalus cornutus</i>	The deep purple Astragalus, Kaliakra steppe
	<i>Astragalus glaucus</i>	The creamy yellow Astragalus, Kaliakra steppe. A Bulgarian RDB species
	<i>Astragalus onobrychis</i>	The pink flowered Astragalus, Kaliakra steppe
	<i>Astragalus spruneri</i>	The pink Astragalus on the White Cliffs
Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Bursting into flower along the roadsides
	<i>Lathyrus laxiflorus</i>	The purple and white 'pea', Ropotamo woodlands
	<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Reddish pea, Yailata
Orange Birds-foot	<i>Ornithopus pinnatus</i>	Sandy track-side, Ropotamo
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
White Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	The oak at Ropotamo, hairy leaves
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
Ground Pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Fishponds, Durankulak.
Henbit Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium aplexicaule</i>	eg Burgas Lake
	<i>Thymus zygoides</i>	The woody thyme common on the steppe
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Yailata



## BULGARIA SELECTED PLANTS

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
<b>Oleaceae</b>			
	Narrow-leaved Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolius</i>	The Ash in the wet woodlands
	Manna Ash	<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Ropotamo
	Yellow Jasmine	<i>Jasminum fruticans</i>	Yailata
	Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Common roadside shrub: native
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>			
		<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>	The broad-leaved peony, Yailata
	Narrow-leaved Peony	<i>Paeonia tenuifolia</i>	The steppe peony, Kaliakra and Rusalka
<b>Papaveraceae</b>			
		<i>Papaver nigrotinctum</i>	The black-spotted poppies, Ropotamo dunes, 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>			
		<i>Adonis flammea</i>	The bright red pheasant's eye, eg Durankulak & Kaliakra
		<i>Adonis vernalis</i>	The big, yellow Adonis, Kaliakra steppe
		<i>Ranunculus velutinus</i>	The tall buttercup in the wet woodlands
		<i>Anemone pavonina</i>	The pink & red anemone, Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Rhamnaceae</b>			
	Thorn of Christ	<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	The spiny bush with papery disc-like fruits
<b>Rosaceae</b>			
	St Lucie's Cherry	<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	The cherry with round leaves and abundant blossom
<b>Santalaceae</b>			
		<i>Thesium simplex</i>	The bastard toadflax, Rusalka
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>			
	Southern Red Bartsia	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Roadsides
	Purple Mullein	<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	Ropotamo
<b>Solanaceae</b>			
	Thorn Apple	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	
	Henbane	<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	
<b>Violaceae</b>			
	Dwarf Pansy	<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Sandy track-sides, Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Viscaceae</b>			
	Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>	Common in the trees eg around Shabla and Durankulak
<b>ANGIOSPERMS: MONOCOTYLEDONS</b>			
<b>Amaryllidaceae</b>			
	Summer Snowflake	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	In the wet woodlands north of Varna
<b>Asparagaceae</b>			
		<i>Hyacinthella leucophaea</i>	The pale blue 'Scilla', Kaliakra steppe
		<i>Muscari botryoides</i>	The dark blue grape hyacinth in the north
		<i>Muscari neglectum</i>	The paler blue grape hyacinth in the woods
	Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Ropotamo
<b>Iridaceae</b>			
		<i>Iris pumila</i>	The dwarf Iris on the steppe areas
		<i>Iris suaveolens</i>	Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Liliaceae</b>			
	Star of Bethlehem	<i>Ornithogallum umbellatum</i>	near Mandra Lake, 27 <sup>th</sup>
		<i>Tulipa thracica</i>	One in bud, Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup> . A Bulgarian RDB plant.

## BULGARIA SELECTED PLANTS

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
		<i>Fritillaria pontica</i>	Ropotamo, 28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Orchidaceae</b>			
	Violet Birds Nest Orchid	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	3 spikes just coming out, Ropotamo
	Green-winged Orchid	<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	1 spike on the Kaliakra steppe
<b>Ruscaceae</b>			
	Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Common in the woodlands
<b>Xanthorreaceae</b>			
	Yellow Asphodel	<i>Asphodeline lutea</i>	