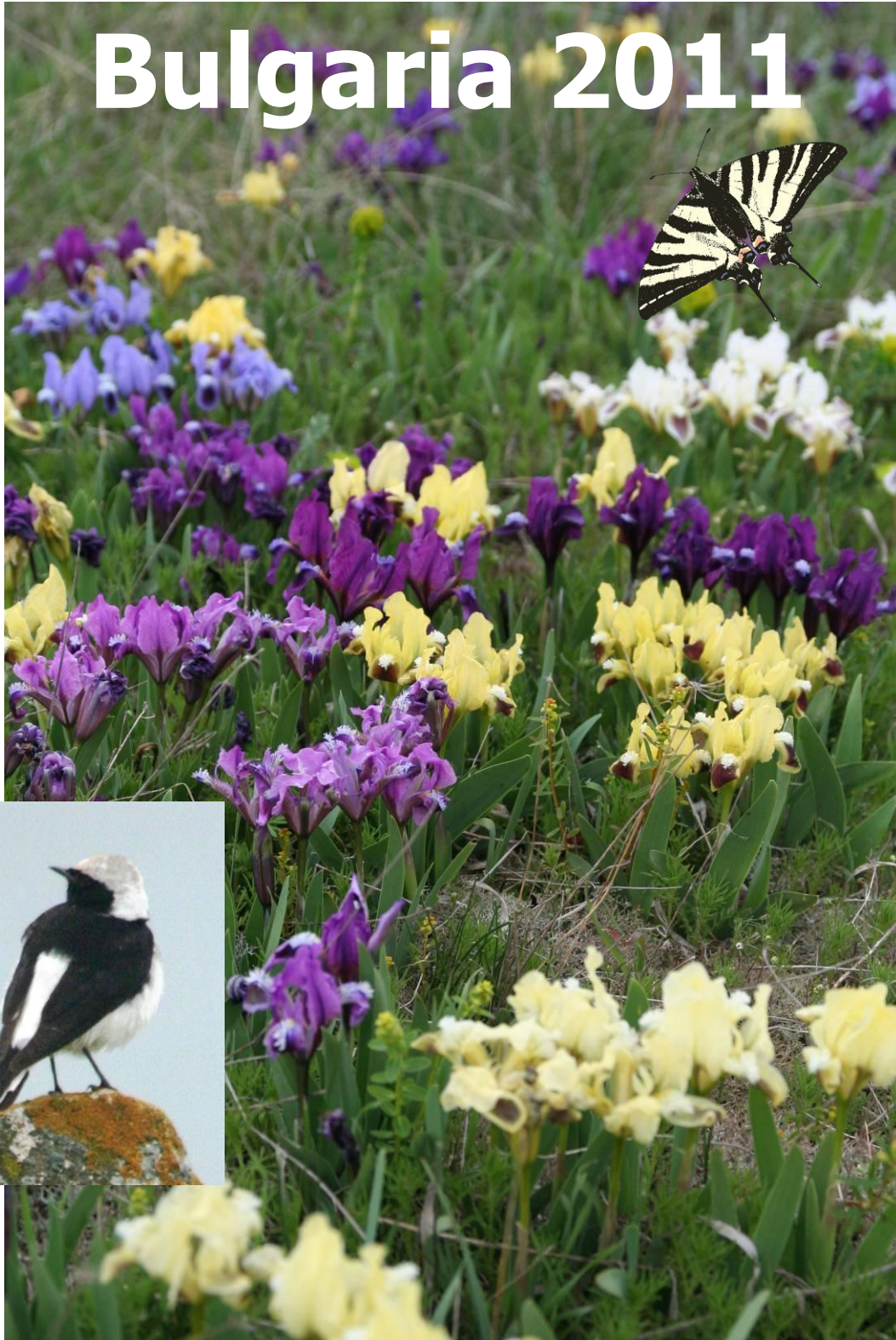


WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Bulgaria 2011



#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	26 th April	Arrival. Transfer to Varna.
2	27 th April	Lake Durankulak
3	28 th April	Shabla Lake. Yailata Archaeological Reserve. Rusalka Steppe
4	29 th April	Cape Kaliakra. Kaliakra Steppe. Bolata Valley
5	30 th April	White Lagoon cliffs. Baltata wet woodland. Goritsa oak woods
6	1 st May	Alepu marsh. Veleka river mouth
7	2 nd May	Alepu dunes. Strandja: Marina Reka, Sifkosija Reserve & Kostı village
8	3 rd May	Ropotamo Reserve
9	4 th May	Sozopol & Bourgas
10	5 th May	Bourgas wetlands: Atanasovsko, Bourgas & Mandra Lakes, Poda Reserve
11	6 th May	Pomorie Lake. Sarafovo. Return to UK

LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leader & Guides

Philip Precey

Cambridge

Mladen Vasilev

<http://www.mladvswildlife.com> (see photos 2948 to 3010, taken on our trip)

Vlado Trifonov

botanist guide, 28th & 29th April

Georgi Popgeorgiev

herpetologist guide, 3rd May





***Iris pumila* on the cliffs at Yailata**



***Paeonia tenuifolia* on the Kaliakra steppe**



***Fritillaria pontica* in the Strandja woods**



***Leucojum aestivum* in wet woodland, Baltata**



Balkan Wall Lizard, Strandja



European Glass Lizard, Alepu



Nose-horned Viper, Ropotamo



Green Toad, Yailata

27th April. Lake Durankulak. A great day around the lake, in the north of Bulgaria. Not the most scenic part of the world, with a definite feel of the Fens about the Dobruja Plains at times. But the wildlife more than made up for it...

The real spectacle was the marsh terns, with hundreds of White-winged Black Terns, smaller numbers of Black Tern and Little Gull, a handful each of Whiskered Tern and Mediterranean Gulls and a lovely pink pair of Slender-billed Gulls, all hawking over the reeds and open water.

Hérons put on a good show too. Purple Herons flew back and forth, at least three Bitterns were around, a couple of Squacco Herons, a flight of 8 Great White Egrets and a lovely male Little Bittern which flew across a pool and then sat out in the open for everyone to get a good view.

A wonderful party of Red-footed Falcons were feeding over a ploughed field, following the tractor together with a White Stork.

In the reeds, several loud, croaking Great Reed Warblers were heard and seen, a Savi's Warbler briefly popped up and then straight back down again, and a singing Paddyfield Warbler was determined not to be seen, and very nearly managed it!

Oh yes, and then there were the flowers... some interesting arable weeds growing in the fishponds area included Ground Pine and the lovely, bright red *Adonis flammea*.

Not bad for a first day...

28th April. Lake Shabla; Yailata Cliffs; Rusalka steppe. Another day of mixed weather but great wildlife.

A pre-breakfast wander down to the beach revealed some amazingly showy Nightingales on territory and a typically drab (but actually rather exciting!) female Common Rosefinch passing through.

We started, in the rain, at Shabla Lake, with plenty of ducks including good numbers of very smart Ferruginous Ducks, some nice waders and some wonderfully smart male Collared Flycatchers in the bushes.

After lunch, we moved on to the archaeological reserve at Yailata, where distractions from the archaeology came in the form of a male Pied Wheatear, plenty of singing Calandra Larks, some close-in Yelkouan Shearwaters off shore, a great display of the lovely dwarf irises *Iris pumila* and a good population of (as yet still in bud) *Peonia peregrina*.

We ended the day on an area of surviving 'virgin' steppe, land never cultivated and almost carpeted in the wonderful little irises. Short-toed Lark sang overhead, a pair of Stone Curlews stalked around and a superb male Rock Thrush gave a great display as he hopped about on the steppe, somewhat lost on his way north. But even he couldn't compete with the irises...

29th April. Kaliakra. One of those days that start well and then get better and better...

Despite a very civilised start time, we still managed to arrive at Cape Kaliakra before the general tourist arrival and had the place pretty much to ourselves. Amongst the interesting Byzantine ruins we had good views of three species of wheatear (Pied, Isabelline and Northern), with low flying Alpine Swifts buzzing us.

Just offshore attention first went to the birds, with good numbers of Black-throated Diver gathering together, many in smart breeding plumage, and smaller numbers of Black-necked Grebe and fly-past Yelkouan Shearwaters. We were then distracted from the birds by a small group of Harbour Porpoise (the endangered Black Sea sub-species) feeding some way offshore... and then, further out still, a pod of Bottle-nosed Dolphins moved through, heading purposefully north.

Moving back inland a bit, we had a stop on some fantastic flower-rich steppe grassland, where we soaked up the spectacle of the amazing colours of the dwarf irises (two species grow alongside each other, the pale yellow and sweetly smelling *Iris suaveolens* and the incredibly variable and slightly less scented *Iris pumila*), the dazzling yellow *Adonis vernalis*, the crimson *Adonis flammea* and the deep red *Paeonia tenuifolia*, a very special plant of the Pontic steppe just bursting into flower. Calandra Larks sang overhead, one or two fresh Swallowtails sheltered amongst the vegetation and a Spur-thighed Tortoise hunkered down, but the plants won the most admiration.

From the steppe, we dropped down into a wonderful hidden valley. While examining some otter spraint on the bridge at the bottom, I looked up to see an animal striding across the path a little further on... an animal with tabby stripes and a long, bushy, dark-tipped tail... rather amazingly, a real Wild Cat! Even more amazingly, this one actually hung around long enough for everyone to get a look at him, as he paced through the vegetation, turned to look over his shoulder from a small rise and then dropped down into the reeds behind. Wow...

30th April. Kavarna to Sozopol. Essentially a travelling day, moving from Kavarna in the north to Sozopol in the south, but with plenty of stops along the way.

At our first stop, Mladen picked out an adult Eagle Owl roosting on the cliff, while a piece of roadside wood revealed a lovely Balkan Green Lizard.

Next up was an impromptu roadside stop for a wonderful display of Summer Snowflake *Leucojum aestivum* together with the tall buttercup *Ranunculus velutinus* in an area of wet woodland. The woods also turned out to be home to Semi-collared Flycatcher, with a couple of singing males showing very well. And finally, an adult Aesculapian Snake put on a good performance, being very confiding.

The day's herptile theme continued at our stop in the oak woods, where two Eastern Green Lizards and a very friendly Agile Frog posed for photos while yet more Semi-collared Flycatchers sang and checked out nest sites. The local woodpeckers were a little shyer, but we did hear four species (Green, Great Spotted, Middle Spotted and Grey-headed), although only the Green put in an appearance.

Our journey also coincided with brilliant migration conditions (winds coming from the south east, several periods of warm blue skies enabling the soaring things to get over the Balkan Range). Birds seemed to be on the move all day (the most impressive 'vis-mig' I've ever seen), with just some of the highlights: a flock of around 30 Squacco Herons dropped in on the bay below our hotel just after breakfast; a nice Lesser Spotted Eagle low over at our lunch stop, followed five minutes later by a Short-toed Eagle; Black Terns passing overhead quite regularly; a wonderful flock of 96 Red-footed Falcons low over roadside fields. Not bad for a travel day!

1st May. Veleka. May 1st, Snakes Day (according to a book of Bulgarian folklore we picked up in Varna...) when we're supposed to stamp around the village boundaries scaring off the snakes. Well, hopefully we'll not scare them too much, as the plan is to be joined by a local herpetologist in a couple of days time!

Meanwhile, we spent the day down towards the Turkish border, around the Veleka River.

Our first roadside stop revealed a fresh-in Roller perched in a small bush, with Woodchat Shrike and Cirl Bunting nearby also new for the trip.

Down at the river we were serenaded by the now-familiar songs of the Marsh Frogs and Nightingales. Some very nice woodland ground flora included the lovely *Fritillaria pontica*, a piece of plastic rubbish hid a small Grass Snake and a pair of Ortolan Buntings were in the scrub nearby.

Out at the river mouth, a small marsh provided a quick pit stop for a mixed group of waders, made up of 10 Wood Sandpipers, 3 Ruff, 2 each of Greenshank and Little Ringed Plover and a single Temminck's Stint. Meanwhile, at the back of the marsh, a European Pond Terrapin decided to take a walk across the grass...

Heading homewards, we stopped at a rocky beach (which, by the smell, coincided with a small sewage outfall...) which had attracted a good group of marsh terns to wash and feed, as well as a single Little Stint, yet another wader for the trip list.

Finally, we paused at Arkutino Lake where massive numbers of hirundines fed low over the water, occasionally panicked by the local Hobby, and a single calling Penduline Tit gradually came closer and turned into a wonderful group of at least 6, showing brilliantly in the nearby willow scrub. A lovely end to another good day.

4th May. Strandja. A lovely day in one of the loveliest parts of Bulgaria, the Strandja mountains. At last the sun came out, and with it the lizards... of which, fingers crossed, many more tomorrow!

Other highlights of the day were a calling White-backed Woodpecker, a sadly dead Levantine Mole and some interesting plants. But the main highlight today must surely be the sun! At last!!

3rd May. Ropotamo. Today was spent in the company of one of Bulgaria's best herpetologists and in one of the most herptile-species-rich areas in the country. Alas, the weather wasn't quite playing ball, and much of the day was fairly sun-free and slightly damp... and yet we still came home at the end of the day having seen 16 species, 2 more than can be found in the entire country back home!!

We started 'herptile day' with a bird... a massive adult White-tailed Eagle just by the road! And while watching him, we stumbled across our first 'herp' of the day, a big adult European Glass Lizard (photo above): a jumbo Slow Worm, kinda like a walking stick with the face of Voldemort!

And from there we didn't look back... four snakes, a lovely big Eastern Spadefoot and a baby terrapin both rescued from drains, a mini-tortoise on the sand dunes and the recently split Eastern Slow Worm all posed for photos. And we even managed to get back home before the thunder storm struck!

4th May. Sozopol & Bourgas. A day of urban explorations and Syrian Woodpecker in the park at Bourgas.

5th May. Bourgas wetlands. A day exploring the wetlands around the not-particularly-salubrious city of Bourgas. And despite the backdrop, they're pretty impressive wetlands!

During the day, a steady stream of raptors and other migrants passed overhead: Short-toed and Lesser Spotted Eagles, Levant Sparrowhawk, Red-footed Falcon, Bee-eaters, White and Black Storks, Honey Buzzards and hundreds of Steppe Buzzards.

The sun came out, for a change, and with it the butterflies: Eastern Dappled White were particularly common, with Small Copper, Grizzled and Mallow Skippers and Brown Argus all new for the trip.

Also enjoying the sun at the Poda reserve were an amazing number of snakes: we must have seen at least 40 Dice Snakes, 15 Grass Snakes and two massive (compared to any of the other snakes we've seen so far) Blotched Snakes in the rockier areas.

Our last stop of the day was on the shores of Mandra Lake, where a single Dalmatian Pelican sailed serenely past, tens of thousands of hirundines hawked over the water and a spectacular flight of 600+ White Pelicans passed overhead, returning from their day's fishing at some inland waterway.

BULGARIA BIRD CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)												
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			X		X					X	X
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>			X		X					X	X
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			X							X	X
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		X	X							X	X
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>			X								
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>			X								
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>		X	X	X		X				X	X
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>			X						X	X	X
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		X	X			X					
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)												
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		H									
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>			H							H	
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)												
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		X	X	H		X		X		X	X
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>			X	X	X						
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				X			X			X	X
Family Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)												
Yelkouan Shearwater	<i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>			X	X							
Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)												
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		X			X		X		X	X	X
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>										X	X
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)												
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mediterranean Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis desmarestii</i>			X	X							
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>		X				X		X		X	
Family Ardeidae (Hérons)												
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		X									
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		X				X	X				
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		X									
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola rolloides</i>		X	X		X	X	X			X	X
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			X		X		X			X	X
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)												
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		X	X			X	X			X	
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>						X				X	
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)												
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	X		X		X			X	X
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>							X			X	
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)												
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>							X	X		X	
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>					X			X		X	
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>					X					X	
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montagu's/Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i> or <i>C. macrourus</i>					X	X	X				
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		X			X	X	X	X		X	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>				X							
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>					X			X		X	
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>							X				
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>					X						
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>							X			X	

BULGARIA BIRD CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Family Falconidae (Falcons)												
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		X			X					X	
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		X		X	X	X					
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)												
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)												
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>					X					X	X
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			X		X		X			X	X
Family Burhinidae (Stone Curlews)												
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>			X								
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)												
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareolus pratincola</i>			X							X	
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)												
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		X				X					X
Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>											X
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)												
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			X								
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>											X
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>						X					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>						X				X	X
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>			X							X	X
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			X			X	X			X	X
Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>										X	
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>										X	
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				X		X					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		X				X				X	X
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>			X	X	X					X	X
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			X			X				X	X
Family Laridae (Gulls)												
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X								X	X
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>		X									
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		X	X			X					X
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		X	X								
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		X		X							X
Family Sternidae (Terns)												
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>		X									X
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		X				X	X	X	X	X	X
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvichensis</i>		X	X	X	X					X	X
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>		X	X		X	X	X				
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>		X				X	X			X	X
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)												
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>									X		
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X		H	
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)												
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			X	X	X	H	H				X
Family Strigidae (Owls)												
Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>					X						

BULGARIA BIRD CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Family Apodidae (Swifts)												
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Alpine Swift	<i>Apus melba</i>				X	X						
Family Upupidae (Hoopes)												
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)												
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		X	X	H	X						
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)												
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>						X		X	X	X	X
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)												
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>						X	X			X	
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)												
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>								X			
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>					X	H	X	H			
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					H			H			
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				X	X						
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>					X				X		
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>					H		H				
White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>							X				
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				X							
Family Alaudidae (Larks)												
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		X	X		X	X				X	
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			X			X	X	X		X	X
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			X	H		X					
Short-toed Lark	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>			X								
Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>		X	X	X							
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)												
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X	X	X		X	X			X	X
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-rumped Swallow	<i>Hirundo daurica</i>				X				X			
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)												
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>			X				X				
Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>						H					
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>						X					
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				X							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X			X
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and Chats)												
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		X		X	X	X					
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		X	X	X			X				
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			X	X				X			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X	X	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	X	X	X		X	X	
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>		X					X				
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>			X								
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>					H	H		X			
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>								H			
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

BULGARIA BIRD CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Family Sylviidae (Warblers)												
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			X	X	X					X	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			X	X	X				X	X	X
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			X								
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>		X									
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X	H	H		X	X	H		X	X
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		X	H	H						H	
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H								H	H
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			X	X							X
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			X	X							
Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers)												
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						X			X		X
Semi-collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula semitorquata</i>					X	X	H	H			
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>		X	X	X							
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				X							
Family Paridae (Tits)												
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>						X	X	X			
Marsh Tit	<i>Parus palustris</i>								X			
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)												
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>						X		X			
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)												
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						X					
Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)												
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>					X		X				
Family Certhiidae (Trecreepers)												
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>					X			H			
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)												
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>								X			
Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>						X		X		X	
Family Corvidae (Crows)												
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>		X	X		X	X					
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)												
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Oriolidae (Orioles)												
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>											X
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)												
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>			X	X	X				X		X
Family Fringillidae (Finches)												
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>				X							
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>				X	X	X		X	X	X	
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>				X							
Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>			X								

BULGARIA BIRD CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>						H		H			
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)												
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>						X					
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>					X	X		H			
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>						X					
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	

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BULGARIA BUTTERFLY CHECKLIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
		Family Papilionidae (Swallowtails)										
Swallowtail	<i>Papilio machaon</i>				X			X				
Family Pieridae (Whites)												
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>				X	X	X	X			X	
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		X			X					X	
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>				X			X			X	X
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>					X		X	X			
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias crocea</i>				X							
Brimstone	<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>					X						
Wood White	<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>							X	X			
Family Lycaenidae (Blues, Coppers & Hairstreaks)												
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>							X				
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>										X	X
Grecian Copper	<i>Lycaena ottomani</i>							X	X			
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>					X		X				
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glacopsyche alexis</i>							X				
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>										X	
Family Nymphalidae (Vanessids and Fritillaries)												
Large Tortoiseshell	<i>Nymphalis polychloros</i>					X						
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>							X				
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>								X			
Family Satyridae (Browns)												
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>										X	
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>					X		X				
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>							X				
Family Hesperidae (Skippers)												
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>										X	
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>										X	
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>							X				
OTHER INVERTEBRATES												
Hummingbird Hawk Moth	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>		X		X			X				
Lesser Stag Beetle	<i>Dorcus parallelipedus</i>	Goritsa woods, 30 th										
a stag beetle	<i>Platycerus caraboides</i>	The carabid-like stag beetle, Marina Reka, 2 nd										
a longhorn beetle	<i>Pedestredorcadion pedestre</i>	Crossing the road near Veleka, 1 st										
a longhorn beetle	<i>Neodorcadion bilineatum</i>	The stripy longhorn, Pomorie Lakes, 6 th										
a longhorn beetle	<i>Rhagium mordax</i>	The big longhorn, Marina Reka, 2 nd										
a longhorn beetle	<i>Cerambyx scopolii</i>	The black, very long-horned beetle, Ropotamo, 3 rd										
Glow Worm	<i>Lampyris noctiluca</i>	One found by the roadside, Strandja, 2 nd										
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa violacea</i>	One at Pomorie Lakes, 6 th										
a bumblebee	<i>Bombus argillaceus</i>	The big black bumblebee with yellow stripes on the thorax, seen in the north										
a shield bug	<i>Eurydema ventralis</i>	Red and black bugs on sea kale, Veleka, 1 st										
a shield bug	<i>Stagonomus bipunctatus</i>	Common on Ajuga laxmannii, Kosti, 2 nd										
Blue-tailed damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Veleka, 1 st and Poda, 5 th										
Vagrant Emperor	<i>Anax ephippiger</i>	One at Kosti, 2 nd & Ropotamo, 3 rd										
a termite	<i>Reticulitermes flavicollis</i>	Colonies under rocks, Ropotamo, 3 rd										
Balkan Freshwater Crab	<i>Potamon ibericum</i>	In the roadside stream, Strandja, 2 nd										
European Giant Centipede	<i>Scolopendra cingulata</i>	Europe's largest centipede, Ropotamo, 3 rd										

BULGARIA HERPTILES & MAMMALS LIST

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	26 th	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
AMPHIBIANS												
Salamanders and Newts												
Balkan Crested Newt	<i>Triturus karelinii</i>								X			
Smooth Newt	<i>Triturus vulgaris</i>							X				
Frogs and Toads												
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>		X				H					H
Eastern Spadefoot	<i>Pelobates syriacus</i>								X			
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>				D			X				
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>			X							D	X
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>				H							
Agile Frog	<i>Rana dalmatina</i>					X		X	X			
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X
REPTILES												
Tortoises and Terrapins												
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>				X				X			
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		D				X	X				
Lizards												
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>					X		X	X			
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>					X					X	
Meadow Lizard	<i>Lacerta praticola</i>							X				
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>								X			
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>							X	X			
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>							X	X			
Eastern Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis colchicus</i>								X			
European Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus apodus</i>								X			
Snakes												
Blotched Snake	<i>Elaphe sauromates</i>											X
Aesculapian Snake	<i>Zamenis longissimus</i>					X		X				
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix persa</i>						X		X		X	
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		D		D				X		X	
Nose-horned Viper	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>								X			
MAMMALS												
Black Sea Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena relicta</i>	Two skulls on the beach, Durankulak, 27 th A small group offshore, Kaliakra, 29 th One skull in the dunes, Alepu, 2 nd										
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	A pod of about 10 offshore, Kaliakra, 29 th										
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Footprints by the Veleka River, 1 st Scat in the woods, Marina Reka, 2 nd										
Wild Cat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	One watched moving through the vegetation, Bolata Valley, 29 th										
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Spraint and prints, Bolata Valley, 29 th Spraint and prints, Veleka River, 1 st										
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	1 roadkill, 2 nd										
European Mole	<i>Talpa europea</i>	1 dead at Shabla Lake, 28 th										
Levantine Mole	<i>Talpa levantina</i>	1 dead at Marina Reka, 2 nd . Smaller than T. europea, with no visible eyes.										
Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	Fairly common as roadkill										
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	The pale bats around the hotel in Kavarna										
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Many footprints in the woods at Goritsa, 30 th , Marina Reka, 2 nd & Ropotamo, 3 rd . Jaw bone at the salt lake, 5 th .										
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Droppings in the dunes at Alepu and another by the roadside, 2 nd . One by the roadside, 5 th										

BULGARIA SELECTED PLANTS

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

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
Apiaceae (Umbelliferae)			
	Sea Holly	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	On the dunes, Veleka
Apocynaceae			
	Herbaceous Periwinkle	<i>Vinca herbacea</i>	The steppe periwinkle: Yailata & Kaliakra
Asteraceae (Compositae)			
		<i>Centaurea napulifera</i>	The big white knapweed on the steppe
Berberidaceae			
	Barrenwort	<i>Epimedium pubigerum</i>	Marina Reka, 2 nd
Boraginaceae			
	Eastern Borage	<i>Trachystemon orientalis</i>	In the Strandja forests
	Crimean Comfrey	<i>Symphytum tauricum</i>	The cream-flowered comfrey in the Strandja forests.
	Eastern Comfrey	<i>Symphytum orientale</i>	The white-flowered comfrey
		<i>Anchusa azurea</i>	The dark blue Anchusa on the sand dunes, Alepu
		<i>Anchusa undulata</i>	The purple-blue Anchusa, Ropotamo roadsides
Brassicaceae			
	Sea Kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Flowering on sand dunes
Ericaceae			
	Common Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	At Marina Reka. A very rare plant in Bulgaria!
	Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	A special, native plant of the Strandja forests. 2 nd
Euphorbiaceae			
	Wood Spurge	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Goritsa
	Myrtle Spurge	<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	The glaucous, spreading spurge on the steppe
	Sea Spurge	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	On the dunes, Veleka
	Purple Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	On the dunes, Ropotamo
	Petty Spurge	<i>Euphorbia peplis</i>	Common roadside weed
	Sun Spurge	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Common field weed
Fabaceae			
		<i>Lathyrus laxiflorus</i>	The purple and white 'pea', Goritsa woodlands
		<i>Astragalus onobrychis</i>	The pink flowered Astragalus, Kaliakra steppe
	Judas Tree	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Bursting into flower along the roadsides
Fagaceae			
	Eastern Beech	<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	The Beech tree in the Strandja
	Hungarian Oak	<i>Quercus frainetto</i>	The commonest Oak in the Strandja
	Turkey Oak	<i>Quercus cerris</i>	In the Strandja
	White Oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	The commonest Oak at Goritsa
Fumariaceae			
		<i>Corydalis solida</i>	Woodland, Veleka
Lamiaceae			
		<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>	The felty-leaved Ajuga, Veleka woodlands
	Ground Pine	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Fishponds, Durankulak.
	Large Red Dead-nettle	<i>Lamium gargaricum</i>	eg Veleka woodlands
Oleaceae			
	Narrow-leaved Ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolius</i>	The Ash in the wet woodlands in the south
	Forsythia	<i>Forsythia europaea</i>	Two colourful roadside shrubs, both native
	Lilac	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	
Orobanchaceae			
	Toothwort	<i>Lathraea squamaria</i>	In the damp woodland, Veleka, 1 st
Paeoniaceae			
		<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>	The broad-leaved peony in bud, Yailata
	Narrow-leaved Peony	<i>Paeonia tenuifolia</i>	The steppe peony, Kaliakra
Papaveraceae			
		<i>Papaver nigrotinctum</i>	The black-spotted poppies, Alepu dunes, 2 nd

BULGARIA SELECTED PLANTS

	ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	NOTES
Primulaceae			
		<i>Cyclamen coum</i>	Leaves and corms, Marina Reka, 2 nd
		<i>Primula vulgaris ssp rubra</i>	The purple primula in the woods, Goritsa & Strandja
Ranunculaceae			
		<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
	Adder's-tongue Spearwort	<i>Ranunculus ophioglossifolius</i>	In wet patches near Veleka river, 1 st
		<i>Anemone pavonina</i>	The pink & red anemone in the dunes, Ropotamo, 2 nd
Rhamnaceae			
	Thorn of Christ	<i>Paliurus spina-christi</i>	The spiny bush with papery disc-like fruits
Rosaceae			
	Cherry Laurel	<i>Laurocerasus officinalis</i>	By the stream, Marina Reka, 2 nd
	Dwarf Almond	<i>Prunus tenella</i>	The pink-flowered mini-shrub on the steppe, Kaliakra
Santalaceae			
		<i>Thesium simplex</i>	The bastard toadflax in the steppe, Kaliakra
Scrophulariaceae			
	Southern Red Bartsia	<i>Parentucellia latifolia</i>	Roadsides
Thymeleaceae			
		<i>Daphne pontica</i>	The Daphne in the woods at Marina Reka, 2 nd
Viscaceae			
	Mistletoe	<i>Viscum album</i>	Common in the trees eg around Shabla and Durankulak
ANGIOSPERMS: MONOCOTYLEDONS			
Amaryllidaceae			
	Summer Snowflake	<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	In the wet woodlands north of Varna
Asparagaceae			
		<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
	Twin-leaved Squill	<i>Scilla bifolia</i>	Goritsa, 30 th
Iridaceae			
		<i>Iris pumila</i>	The many-coloured dwarf Iris on the steppe
		<i>Iris suaveolens</i>	The pale yellow, sweet smelling dwarf Iris on the steppe
Liliaceae			
		<i>Ornithogallum sibthorpii</i>	The small, stemless Star of Bethlehem
Orchidaceae			
	Greater Butterfly Orchid	<i>Platanthera clorantha</i>	Just coming into bud, Ropotamo, 3 rd
Ruscaceae			
	Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Common in the woodlands
	Large Butcher's Broom	<i>Ruscus hypoglossum</i>	Marina Reka, 2 nd
	Solomon's Seal	<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Ropotamo, 3 rd