



Birdwatching Holidays in Spain, Morocco & more...

BOLETAS Birdwatching centre
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BIRD HIGHLIGHTS

TOUR	DATES
BULGARIA	20th to 29th May 2009

Party:

Michael Ridgard, Valerie Ridgard - Elisabeth Ann McKenna - Dawn Russell - George Fricker
 Mary Fricker - Trevor Samuels - Ivonne Samuels - Jeremy Milne - Nicholas Milne - Brian Milne -

Tour Leader : Josele J Saiz , Simeon Gigov

Total Number of Species : 195

Weather & Sites:

Day 1 – 21.05.09	Nice & sunny Balchik , Kaliaka Steppes & cape - Rulsalka
Day 2 – 22.05.09	Sunny & hot Durankulak Lake – Sabla Lake – Kavarna River
Day 3 – 23.05.09	Nice , sunny & Cloudy Srebarna Reserve - Dorcica
Day 4 – 24.05.09	Mild & sunny Kamchia – Goritsa- Gyulyovsa Forest – Pomorie salt pans
Day 5 – 25.05.09	Sunny & hot Mandra Lake- Poda Nature reserve- Viya Lake – Atanasoko Salt Pans – Izaborska River mouth – Pomorie salt pans
Day 6 – 26.05.09	Mild , sunny & cloudy Strandja Mountain – Silskosya Reserve – Kosti Village
Day 7 – 27.05.09	Mild , sunny Gorno Krushevo Forest – Savar Mountain – Topolograd – Maritsa River
Day 8 – 28.05.09	Hot Sunny & Cloudy Beklemeto mountain– Rozino Village
Day 9 – 29.05.09	Cloudy and heavy rains Vitosha mountain

Money for conservation has gone to : Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds.

h/Heard X/ Seeing ad/ Adult juv/ Juvenile f/ Female m/Male XX / Common (?) possible

0	Common Name	Scientific Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Red Throated Diver	Gavia artica				1					
2	Little Grebe	Tachybaptus ruficollis			x		x				
3	Red-necked Grebe	Podiceps grisegena			x		x				
4	Great White Pelican	P. onocrotalus			3		40+				
5	Dalmatian Pelican	Pelecanus crispus			20		15+				
6	Pygmy Cormorant	Ph. pygmeus		2	20		1				
7	Great Cormorant	Phalacrocorax carbo	x	xx	x	x	x	x	x	x	
8	European Shag	Ph. aristotelis	10+								
9	Little Egret	Egretta garzetta		x	x	x	x	x			
10	Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
11	Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea		5+	8+		1				
12	Great Egret	Casmerodius albus		5+	2	5					
13	Squacco Heron	Ardeola ralloides			10+		2	1			
14	Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax			10+		1	1			
15	Little Bittern	Ixobrychus minutus		2	2		2				
16	Great Bittern	Botaurus stellaris			1						
17	Black Stork	Ciconia nigra				2		3	x		
18	White Stork	Ciconia ciconia			5		10+	3	x	x	
19	Glossy Ibis	Plegadis falcinellus			4	1					
20	Eurasian Spoonbill	Platalea leucorodia			2	5		4			
21	Mute Swan	Cygnus olor	3	5	6	1	30+	9+			
22	Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea				9		14			
23	Common Shelduck	Tadorna tadorna		20+		10+	15+	30+			
24	Gadwall	Anas strepera			3	1	2	1			
25	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos		x	x	x	x	x			
26	Garganey	Anas querquedula		6		3		2			
27	Common Pochard	Aythya ferina		x	x		x	x			
28	Ferruginous Duck	Aythya nyroca		20+	x						
29	European Honey Buzzard	Pernis apivorus					15+				
30	Black Kite	Milvus migrans							2		
31	White-tailed Eagle	Haliaeetus albicilla				1					
32	Short-toed Eagle	Circaetus gallicus						1			
33	Montagu's Harrier	Circus pygargus							1		
34	Western Marsh Harrier	Circus aeruginosus	1	4	4	1	3	3			
35	Levant Sparrowhawk	Accipiter brevipes		1					1		
36	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	Accipiter nisus		1							
37	Common Buzzard	Buteo buteo		2	4	x	x	x	x	x	
38	Long-legged Buzzard	Buteo rufinus		1	1				2	2	
39	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Aquila pomarina			3		1		1		
40	Eastern Imperial Eagle	Aquila heliaca							2	1	
41	Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus	1	x	x		2	3	x	x	
42	Eleonora's Falcon	Falco eleonora							1		
43	Red-footed Falcon	Falco vespertinus		1							
44	Eurasian Hobby	Falco subbuteo	2	3			1				
45	Water Rail	Rallus aquaticus		h							
46	Corncrake	Crex crex						h			
47	Pheasant	Phasianus colchicus						1			
48	Common Moorhen	Gallinula chloropus		x	x		x	x			
49	Common Coot	Fulica atra		x	x	x	x	x			
50	Eurasian Oystercatcher	H. ostralegus				5					
51	Common Ringed Plover	Charadrius hiaticula		x		x		1			
52	Little Ringed Plover	Charadrius dubius		1			4				
53	Kentish Plover	Ch. alexandrinus		2			3				

110	Common House Martin	Delichon urbica	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	
111	White Wagtail	Motacilla alba	1		2	1	1	1	1	1	
112	Black-headed Yellow Wagtail	M. (flava) feldegg		8+	1		1		1		
113	Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea									x
114	Tawny Pipit	Anthus campestris	4	1							
115	Tree Pipit	Anthus trivialis							h		x
116	Water Pipit	Anthus spinoletta									x
117	Red-backed Shrike	Lanius collurio	10+	5+	x	4	2	3	x	x	
118	Masked Shrike	Lanius nubicus							2		
119	Lesser Grey Shrike	Lanius minor	5+	5+	2	4+			x		
120	Woodchat Shrike	Lanius senator				1		1			
121	White-throated Dipper	Cinclus cinclus									x
122	Winter Wren	Tr. troglodytes						h			h
123	Hedge Accentor (Dunnock)	Prunella modularis									1
124	Ring Ouzel	Turdus torquatus									5
125	Eurasian Blackbird	Turdus merula	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	
126	Song Thrush	Turdus philomelos		x	x	x		h			x
127	Mistle Thrush	Turdus viscivorus							2		1
128	European Robin	Erithacus rubecula				h		h			1
129	Common Nightingale	L. megarhynchos	h	h	2	h	h	1	h		
130	Black Redstart	Phoenicurus ochruros	x	3	1						
131	Common Redstart	Ph. phoenicurus									3
132	Whinchat	Saxicola rubetra						1			x
133	European Stonechat	Saxicola rubicola		1	1			1	2		
134	Northern Wheatear	Oenanthe oenanthe	2						1		x
135	Pied Wheatear	Oenanthe pleschanka	6								
136	Isabelline Wheatear	Oenanthe isabellina							3		10
137	Bearded Tit	Panurus biarmicus		3				12			
138	Goldcrest	Regulus regulus									1
139	Firecrest	Regulus ignicapillus									1
140	Cetti's Warbler	Cettia cetti					h				
141	Savi's Warbler	Loc. luscinioides			3	H					
142	Moustached Warbler	Acr. melanopogon		1							
143	Paddyfield Warbler	Acr. agricola		4							
144	European Reed Warbler	Acr. scirpaceus	h	x	x	h	h	h	h		
145	Marsh Warbler	Acr. palustris						1			
146	Great Reed Warbler	Acr. arundinaceus	3	x	2	h	3	h	h		
147	Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	Hippolais elaeica	4		1		1		1		
148	Olive-tree Warbler	Hippolais olivetorum	h						3		
149	Easter Bonellis Warbler	Philoscopus orientalis						3			
150	Willow Warbler	Ph. trochilus		1							
151	Common Chiffchaff	Ph. collybita	2		h	1		h	h		
152	Blackcap	Sylvia atricapilla		1	x	h		h			h
153	Common Whitethroat	Sylvia communis	x	1	x			1	1		1
154	Lesser Whitethroat	Sylvia curruca	1		1						4+
155	Barred Warbler	Sylvia nisoria	1	1							
156	Spotted Flycatcher	Muscicapa striata				1			1		1
157	Semicollared Flycatcher	Ficedula semitorquata				8		2			
158	Red-breasted Flycatcher	Ficedula parva	1								
159	Long-tailed Tit	Aegithalos caudatus			2	1		x			
160	Eurasian Penduline Tit	Remiz pendulinus			4		1				
161	Marsh Tit	Parus palustris						X			
162	Sombre Tit	Parus lugubris						1	1		
163	Coal Tit	Parus ater						x			1
164	Great Tit	Parus major	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
165	Blue Tit	Parus caeruleus			x	x		x	x	x	

166	Wood Nuthatch	Sitta europaea					x			x	x	
167	Eurasian Treecreeper	Certhia familiaris							2			
168	Short-toed Treecreeper	Certhia brachydactyla					h			2		
169	Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella									x	
170	Cirl Bunting	Emberiza cirlus					1		1			
171	Ortolan Bunting	Emberiza hortulana					1			1		
172	Black-headed Bunting	Emb. melanocephala	x	1			1	2	2	x	x	
173	Common Reed Bunting	Emberiza schoeniclus		6								
174	Corn Bunting	Miliaria calandra	xx	xx	x	x			x	x	x	
175	Common Chaffinch	Fringilla coelebs	1				xx		x	x	x	
176	European Serin	Serinus serinus									x	
177	European Greenfinch	Carduelis chloris	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
178	European Goldfinch	Carduelis carduelis	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
179	Common Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	x		x				x	x		
180	Common Crossbill	Loxia curvirostra								2		
181	Eurasian Bullfinch	Pyrrhula pyrrhula								2		
182	Hawfinch	Cocc. coccothraustes		3	1	6				3		
183	House Sparrow	Passer domesticus	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
184	Spanish Sparrow	Passer hispaniolensis	x	x			1	2	4			
185	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus	x	x	x	x	1					
186	Rosy Starling	Sturnus roseus	3	2								
187	Common Starling	Sturnus vulgaris	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	x	
188	Eurasian Golden Oriole	Oriolus oriolus	2	6+	x	x	3	1	2	h		
189	Eurasian Jay	Garrulus glandarius	1	1	1		1	1	2			
190	Common (Black-billed) Magpie	Pica pica	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
191	Spotted Nutcracker	N. caryocatactes										3
192	Western Jackdaw	Corvus monedula	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
193	Hooded Crow	Corvus corone cornix	x	x	x	x	x			x		
194	Rook	Corvus frugilevus			x					x		
195	Common Raven	Corvus corax			x	2			1	1	1	

OTHER SIGHTINGS

MAMMALS

- Red Squirrel**
- European Ground Squirrel**
- Red Fox**
- Pine Marten**
- European Otter**
- Red Deer**

BUTTERFLIES

- Grizzled Skipper** **Easter Festoon**
- Orange Tip** **Common Blue**
- Small Cooper** **Large Skipper**
- Small Heath** **Speckle Wood**
- Wall Brown** **Silver Blue**
- Meadow Brown** **Silver Washed Fritillary**
- Brown Argus** **Glanville Fritillary**
- Holly Blue** **Green Underside Blue**
- Green Hairstreak** **Tigre Moth**
- Brimstone** **Dingy Sipper**
- Queen of Spain Fritillary** **Scarce Swallowtail**
- Clouded Yellow** **Swallowtail**
- Red Admiral** **Black Vained White**

	Painted Lady	Marsh Fritillary
	Peacock Moth	Spotted Fritillary
	Small Tortoiseshell	Twin Spotted Fritillary
	Scotch Argus	
	REPTILES	
	Noose-horned Snake	<i>Vipera ammodytes</i>
	Boltched Snake	<i>Elaphe sauromates</i>
	Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>
	European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
	Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>
	Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibundus</i>
	Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis tauricus</i>
	Greek Turtle	<i>Testudo graeca</i>
	Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>
	Easter Spadefoot	<i>Scaphiopus holbrookii</i>
	Agile Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>
	Easter Glass Lizard	<i>Ophisaurus ventralis</i>

Favourite bird of the tour

Michael Ridgard - **White-backed Woodpecker**

Valerie Ridgard - **Balch-headed Bulting**

Elisabeth Ann McKenna - **Roller**

Dawn Russell - **Easter Imperial Eagle**

George Fricker – **Masked Shrike**

Mary Fricker – **Eagle Owl**

Trevor Samuels - **Rose Starling**

Ivonne Samuels – **Rose Starling**

Jeremy Milne - **White-backed Woodpecker**

Nicholas Milne - **Easter Imperial Eagle**

Brian Milne – **Blue-cheeked Bee-eater**

Josele J. Saiz – **Eleonora´s Falcon**

The combination of the wild unspoiled landscapes of Bulgaria and the extraordinary variety of wild life has made this tour an unique experience. My most sincere thanks to all of you for giving me the privilege to have been guiding you in this superb garden of Europe. Josele Saiz



Hello Josele, a quick email to thank you for the wonderful time that Liz and myself had in Bulgaria. The scenery was spectacular and the birds fantastic. But what I liked about your tour was that although birds were the main focus a lot of time was also dedicated to the rest of the nature we were fortunate to discover. The trip was very well organised, great accommodation, we really enjoyed the local food, and, of course the good company of yourself and Simeon throughout!

You asked for suggestions for future trips - Firstly, I think it would be nice to give people a little free time at PODA to follow the trail (there were leaflets with the route in the shop) and secondly, always do the checklist in the bar pre dinner :-)))

I chalked up 20 new birds on this trip - including Nutcracker on the last day ;-)) Might see you at the Birdfair but if not, I'm sure Liz and myself will be in touch again, Muchísimas gracias - **Dawn Russel**