

Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 14th to 22nd May 2018

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Danube Delta 2018



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#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	14 th May	Arrival at Bucharest. o/n Motel Diamant, Amara
2	15 th May	Amara fish ponds; Saraiu Lake; Babadag Forest (lunch); Enisala (hilltop fortress); Lake Saraturii (gull colony); Murighiol (joined boat); Uzlina (where we boarded the <i>Kingfisher</i>)
3	16 th May	Dunavat Channel, Dranov Channel, Perisor
4	17 th May	Dunavat to Sfintu Gheorghe.
5	18 th May	Sahalin Lagoon, Sfintu Gheorghe.
6	19 th May	Sfintu Gheorghe to Dunavat. Lake Erenciuc
7	20 th May	Dunavat to Uzlina. Uzlina Sturgeon Farm
8	21 st May	Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac
9	22 nd May	Uzlina to Murighiol. Drive back to Bucharest, via Nufaru and Saraiu Lake, and home

LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leader

Philip Precey: Wildlife Travel

A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/albums/72157668124979972>

Day One: 14th May. Arrival in Bucharest and transfer to Amara

After a very straightforward flight from Heathrow for some, and a drive out from the centre of Bucharest for others, we all met up with Peter, our guide for the next ten days, and set off for our first hotel, the Motel Diamant in Amara where we finished a long day with some meatball soup.

Day Two: 15th May. Travel to the Delta

The day started with a pre-breakfast wander around the fishing lakes opposite the hotel, where highlights included the very loud Great Reed Warblers chuntering from the reeds, a male Little Bittern who flew past several times, a very showy Golden Oriole posing at the top of a tree, several Ferruginous Ducks in a quiet corner and a handful of Black-necked Grebes out on the lake in the distance, as well as a very scenic poppy-filled wheat field by the roadside.

After breakfast, we were on our way. The first stop of the day was by the shore at Lake Saraiu, where a trio of Ruddy Shelduck were seen up the valley above the lake, with one Honey Buzzard and two Common Buzzards passing overhead. From the nearby woodland we could hear Golden Oriole and Thrush Nightingale singing, while amongst the grassland we found a stunning male Large Copper and a small patch of Birthwort *Aristolochia clematis*.

Moving on, we reached the Babadag Forest in time to enjoy a sunny wander through the woods before lunch. The forest was primarily made up of White Oak, along with both Narrow-leaved and Manna Ash, Field Maple, Hop Hornbeam and Eastern Hornbeam, with a scrub layer made up primarily of Smoke Bush. The wild flowers here were looking good, and kept us entertained. Orchids are always a particular favourite, and we found several different species: the impressive purple spikes of Violet Birds-nest Orchid *Limodorum abortivum* parasitizing the trees, the tall spikes of Lady Orchid *Orchis purpurea* in the dappled shade and a single spike of the smaller, paler Monkey Orchid *Orchis simia* in a grassy clearing. In the shade of the trees, we found the creamy White Helleborine *Cephalanthera damasonium* and a couple of spikes of Greater Butterfly Orchid *Platanthera chlorantha*.

Also growing in the shade of the White Oak we found wonderful wild peonies *Paeonia peregrina*, alas all finished flowering already, along with the blue flowered, upright *Clematis integrifolia*, and *Vinca herbacea*.

The grassy areas included a good proportion of the *Stipa sp.* steppe grasses: wild flowers included abundant Nodding Sage *Salvia nutans*; the large white *Salvia austriaca*; the pale blue speedwell *Veronica austriaca*; spikes of blue and pink *Polygala major*; the tall thistle-like *Jurinia mollis*, whose flower heads seemed particularly popular with the flower chafers; yellow-flowered Ground Pine *Ajuga chamaepithys* and the lovely fluffy leaves and creamy flowers striped with maroon of *Ajuga laxmannii*.

The bird highlight of these woods was Ortolan Bunting, with several singing males. A dark-phase Booted Eagle passed overhead, along with another Honey Buzzard. Green-eyed Hawker and Lesser Emperor dragonflies were

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amazingly abundant in the sheltered, sunnier spots, one of which did a good job of dispatching a Scarce Swallowtail butterfly, and amongst the undergrowth we found our first reptiles: a pair of courting Eastern Green Lizard, with a youngster nearby, and the smaller, pretty Balkan Wall Lizard with its green stripe down the back.

After a roadside picnic lunch, we moved on again. On the edge of the flatlands surrounding the Delta, we stopped at Enisala, next to a hilltop fortress, where a large colony of Bee-eaters put on a show, swooping back and forth after flying insects, and clearing out their breeding burrows for the season ahead, with a pair of Rollers doing the same. Both Isabelline and Northern Wheatears were on the nearby diggings, another Booted Eagle (this time a pale phase bird) circled above us, a couple of White Pelicans and a Purple Heron flew past and, after some scanning of the grassy slopes, we finally found at least a couple of endearing little Sousliks.

Onwards, our next stop was Lake Saraturii, near the village of Plopul, where the large gull and tern colony was made up of Black-headed and Caspian Gulls and Common and Whiskered Terns, with a small number of Black-winged Stilts and Black-necked Grebes scattered through them. A handful of Little Gulls and a couple of immature Mediterranean Gulls put in an appearance, one Baltic Lesser Black-backed Gull flew through, a couple of Black-headed Wagtails and Corn Buntings were in the grass, and we all enjoyed a fly-by by a wonderful male Red-footed Falcon, our first of the trip.

Finally we made it to Murighiol, where we were ferried off to our boat, the *Kingfisher*. Dinner for our first night on the boat was delicious Danube Shad, fresh from the barbeque.

Day Three: 16th May. Dunavat, Dranov, Holbina and Perisor beach A slight change of itinerary, to avoid the increasingly raucous beach weekends, today was our 'big day out', heading along the Dunavat and Dranov channels, out to the Black Sea coast at Perisor.

Along the way we started to become increasingly familiar with some of the typical 'channel-side' birds of the Delta. Bee-eater were present in good numbers, perched up in trees next to their favoured nesting banks. Roller were equally obvious, with numerous pairs perched up, chuckling together and performing their rolling display flight. To complete the colourful trio, several Kingfishers were seen and heard zooming around the waterways, although we didn't manage to catch one sitting still...

Over the treetops, both Hobby and Red-footed Falcon were present in good numbers, while Cuckoo chased about, the occasional Golden Oriole was heard singing from the bankside willows, and a couple of 'flying barn door' White-tailed Eagles were seen during the morning, soaring over the wetlands.

We stopped for lunch on the river bank, overlooking an expansive grazing marsh, where some very picturesque 'wild' horses were grazing. A mixed group of marsh terns were feeding over the flood waters, with at least five very smart White-winged Black Terns, on their way to breeding grounds further north, alongside a single Black Tern and a handful of Whiskered Terns. Large numbers of Mute Swans were feeding out on the flood waters, as well as a handful of White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Shelduck, Black-winged Stilts and good numbers of (unfortunately rather distant) Ruff.

A Grey-headed Woodpecker flew in to a stunted willow tree, giving his mournful yaffle, followed not long after by a Great Spotted Woodpecker in the same spot. The small pool nearby was home to some very noisy Marsh Frogs, which attracted the attention of a Grass Snake.

Lunch out of the way, we headed on to the coast, arriving at the shell beach at Perisor, on the shores of the Black Sea, which was whipped up by the wind into some impressive waves on this particular afternoon. Taking the sheltered path behind the beach, we had good views of two Lesser Grey Shrikes and a single Red-backed Shrike, both species sitting side by side in the same binocular view. Occupying the roof of a now-disused fish farm was a very large White Stork nest, complete with storks but surprisingly devoid of sparrows!

The wind did its best to thwart us, but from the reeds we could hear the chuntering of at least three Paddyfield Warblers, one of which was singing from not too far away. He did briefly appear in the reed tops, but didn't hang about and was soon tucked back down amongst the reeds, singing out of sight. With time running out, the warbler-aficionados turned round to make their way back to the boats, only to find three Paddyfield Warblers chasing around in the tiniest patch of reeds imaginable right next to the path. A successful sighting, albeit a very brief one...

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Our journey home took us back the same way, albeit this time at a slightly quicker pace, with the highlight for some being a male Little Bittern clambering amongst the reeds, whilst others glimpsed a Wild Boar, and some channel-side Squacco Herons appeared in the glowing late afternoon light.

Back on-board the *Kingfisher*, where slow roasted Murighiol lamb and a rosy pink sunset brought a long day to a close.

Day Four: 17th May. Dunavat to Sfintu Gheorghe

We started the morning to the sounds of fluting Golden Orioles and the rather morose whistling of a Grey-headed Woodpecker.

After breakfast, we set off for a relaxing morning spent travelling slowly down stream to the Black Sea, enjoying the birdwatching from the viewing deck of the boat as we went.

Many of the now-familiar typical birds of the Delta put in an appearance during the morning, with herons of various sorts flying back and forth, the occasional bush-top Roller or group of Bee-eaters, some soaring White Pelicans and at least three wonderful White-tailed Eagles, with one adult being mobbed by a very brave Hooded Crow who seemed at times to be trying to ride on the eagle's back. Common Redstart and Thrush Nightingale sang from the wet woodland, both Red-footed Falcon and Hobby were seen hawking for damselflies over the marshes, with Marsh Harrier becoming more frequent as we got closer to the coast and the trees gave way to some amazingly extensive reedbeds, with their singing Great Reed, Reed, Sedge and Savi's Warblers. Star turn came in the form of a fly-past from an adult Great Black-headed Gull: a little briefer than we might have liked, but good to see one of the Delta's specialities.

As we enjoyed a lunch of tasty Crucian Carp and Wels Catfish we reached our destination and moored up next to the village of Sfintu Gheorghe.

In the afternoon, after a brief siesta break, we took the tug along a small channel to the north: we were dropped off on the river bank, and we then walked back along the path, passing reedbeds, marshes and an open lagoon on the left, before returning to the riverbank and the boat.

Large numbers of damselflies must have hatched recently, as the vegetation along the path edge was full of them: most common were Southern Emerald Damselflies, with thousands of individuals amongst the Russian Olive and tamarisk bushes, but we also found Blue-tailed, White-legged Damselflies and the brightly metallic Scarce Emerald Damselfly. Nearby, a teneral Black-tailed Skimmer appeared briefly, along with Painted Lady, Red Admiral and Small Heath butterflies.

Botanising revealed Fringed Water Lily, Frogbit, Water Soldier and Arrowhead out in the shallow water, with the bright purple spikes of the marsh orchid *Anacamptis palustris* spotted here and there, adding a little colour.

Out on the marshes, a White Stork stalked through the rushes, on the hunt for frogs, with the occasional Black-winged Stilt, while one or two Ferruginous Ducks flew back and forth. Out on the lagoon, Common Terns were gathering on an island where they were nesting alongside several pairs of Avocets. Two or three Curlew Sandpipers shared the same island, while a pair of Gull-billed Terns flew overhead, before landing nearby, where they posed alongside a pair of Common Terns to allow easy comparison.

Along the dyke banks we found both Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes, with Lesser Whitethroat and Sedge Warblers singing from the bushes. A Hobby was hunting low down along the bank, picking off damselflies, and a male Red-footed Falcon was hovering out over the marshes.

The wonderful low boom of Bittern was heard throughout the afternoon, coming from the reedbeds across the channel, along with the continual chuntering of Great Reed Warblers, reeling Savi's Warblers and Cuckoos a-plenty. Stopping at a smaller patch of reeds, we heard the pinging of Bearded Tits, a small group of which appeared and spent some time playing hide and seek amongst the reeds, flitting back and forth across the channel. From the same reeds, we could hear another warbler singing away, which when he eventually moved up in the vegetation revealed itself as a Paddyfield Warbler, much to Judith and Marilyn's delight, as they had missed yesterday's brief sightings.

In the shallow water at the edge of the marsh, we could hear large numbers of Fire-bellied Toads moaning away, and after watching one or two in the shallows, Peter caught one, enabling us to admire his firey belly. The toad's belly, that is, not Peter's...

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Continuing the theme of eating our way through the Delta, dinner was roasted Wild Boar.

Day Five: 18th May. Sacalinu Island and Sfintu Gheorghe

This morning we took the tug out along the Turceasca Channel to Sacalinu Island. Along the way, almost every bush seemed to be home to either a Spotted Flycatcher or a Red-backed Shrike, and we disturbed an adult White-tailed Eagle from his dead tree perch.

Unfortunately, despite the clear blue skies, the wind of the last two days was still in evidence, with the resultant waves scuppering our chances of visiting Sahalin Island itself. Instead, we boarded the little boats and explored one of the side channels and the edges of the shallow lagoon, where the now-familiar assortment of herons and egrets and chuntering Great Reed Warblers could all be seen, along with a brief Little Bittern flying over the channel. Some large flocks of White Pelicans were visible in the distance, roosting on the spit and fishing in the shallows, as well several groups circling overhead: a single Dalmatian Pelican came in to join them.

The shallow waters of the lagoon were full of aquatic plants: Water Chestnut, with their rosettes of leaves floating on the surface and one or two spiky fruits bobbing about; and a trio of underwater pondweeds: Curled, Fennel-leaved and Red Pondweeds.

Back on the tug, we travelled back to the *Kingfisher*, and a lunch of Russian fish soup and stuffed peppers.

After a short rest, we took an afternoon walk through the village, where we found a pair of Black Redstarts and some of us admired the village church and some well-kept gardens. Through the village and out the other side, we followed the path across the marshes with the intention of making it through the dunes to the Black Sea. Unfortunately, one section of the track was flooded and though some of us persevered for a while, the deep mud forced most of us to turn back: only Liz and Peter managed to reach the beach and dip their feet into the Black Sea.

Although we didn't make it quite as far as planned, there was still plenty to keep us entertained. On the marsh, our first Garganey, a handsome male, was feeding alongside a couple of Ferruginous Ducks, while Pygmy Cormorants sat in the short bushes, drying their wings and posing for the first time this trip. Beyond them, a small colony of Whiskered Terns were nesting amongst the floating vegetation. A male Red-footed Falcon came through, as did Hobby and Marsh Harrier, with Red-backed Shrikes in the bushes.

For the more botanically minded, the afternoon revealed more, interesting wetland plants: the large umbellifer growing in the water was identified as Northern Water Hemlock *Cicuta virosa*, also known as Cowbane back in the UK. Nearby was Flowering Rush and Pink Water Speedwell, while new aquatics included both Small and Various-leaved Pondweeds, as well as Spiked Water Milfoil and Canadian Pondweed.

Damselflies were still in the longer grass, although in smaller numbers: presumably the better weather today meant that most had flown up high, no doubt to the delight of the falcons!

As we wandered back through the village, a squadron of White Pelicans came soaring overhead, while at dinner at the day's final bird was a Dalmatian Pelican flying right past the dining room window.

Day Six: 19th May. Sfintu Gheorghe to Dunavat. Lake Erenciuc.

After breakfast we set off travelling back up the main channel, in the company of plenty of the now-familiar 'usual' Delta birds; Bee-eaters and Roller, Hobby and Marsh Harriers, soaring pelicans and herons flying back and forth. Scanning the reedbeds we managed to get views, albeit rather distantly, of at least two Savi's Warblers, along with one or two Bearded Tits and a brief Whinchat. Two small parties of Rose-coloured Starlings flew by, heading upriver.

Just before lunch we took the small boats out to explore Lake Erenciuc. Whiskered Terns were present in increasing numbers as we reached the far end of the lake, where the birds were gathering in preparation for the nesting season amongst the lily pads. One or two Black Terns and Common Terns were present with them, together with a pair of Black-necked Grebes and at least four Garganey, along with Gadwall, Mallard, Ferruginous Ducks and Great Crested Grebes. An adult White-tailed Eagle was sat on the shore nearby, causing much consternation from the terns as it flew off, being pursued by a pair of Hooded Crows. As we headed back out of the lake, two Dalmatian Pelicans left, flying low in front of us.

Back on board, and after another carp lunch, we continued making our way upstream, accompanied all the way by the boat's resident pair of White Wagtails. A Honey Buzzard and two Short-toed Eagles were the main surprises of the

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journey, along with the dramatic collapse of a large old willow tree, which bobbed once, twice before being sucked down by the current and disappearing completely beneath the water!

We ended the day back at Dunavat, where we moored up alongside the wet woodland, where Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill and White Stork were seen flying over.

Day Seven: 20th May. Dunavat to Uzlina. Uzlina Sturgeon Farm

A rainy start to the day inspired a quick change of plans, and we spent the morning cruising slowly back up stream to Uzlina, passing Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, another small (10+ birds) flock of Rose-coloured Starlings heading purposefully past, a couple of White Storks and plenty more of 'the usual suspects'.

Mooring up once again at Uzlina, we found an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler singing from the tamarisk scrub behind the dog kennel, with the neighbourhood Lesser Spotted Woodpecker putting in a (very) brief appearance before lunch.

After lunch, the small boats ferried us across the channel to some extensive lagoons, apparently home to the Uzlina Sturgeon Farm, although there was little evidence of either sturgeon or farming amongst the rather dilapidated buildings: just a pair of friendly dogs and some curly-haired Mangalitsa pigs.

We spent the sunny afternoon (sunny, that is, but for a short heavy rain shower which we sat out under the shelter of some big willow trees) walking along the dyke bank next to the reedy lagoons. Birds included a busy Purple Heron colony in the reeds; at least four different White-tailed Eagles flying about over the shallow waters; two confiding Grey-headed Woodpeckers feeding on ants along the path; a family of Long-tailed Tits that passed through; and all the familiar Delta birds.

The shallow water was alive with amphibians: Marsh Frogs and Fire-bellied Toads chorusing together, which in turn attracted the attention of at least two Grass Snakes, one of whom we discovered with a hapless Marsh Frog in its mouth! Despite being disturbed off of the path, the snake kept hold of its prey as it moved to a quieter spot, where it proceeded to slowly but surely swallow the unfortunate amphibian.

A handful of Musk Rats were seen, including one animal that kept returning to his favourite feeding spot to devour the vegetation that he was collecting from the water around him. A small pile of Otter spraint was found on the banks, and recently hatched dragonflies included Blue-tailed and White-legged Damselfly and a very fresh, teneral Broad Scarlet (=Scarlet Darter).

New plants included the aquatic Floating Fern *Salvinia natans*, Motherwort *Leonurus cardiaca* and the bizarrely-flowered vine *Periploca graeca*, with some very big patches of *Aristolochia clematis* along the river bank.

And then it was back to the *Kingfisher*, for a beautiful sunset, roasted veal and a serenading Thrush Nightingale.

Day Eight: 21st May. Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac

This morning, we headed out in the little boats again, heading upstream for some way before turning off on one of the side channels and off into the shallow lakes and reedy waterways to the north: Lakes Isac, Isacel and Pojarnia.

Along the main channel, a handful of White-tailed Eagles soared overhead, while a Golden Oriole flew across the river.

Turning off, through the smaller channels we passed singing Redstart and Garden Warbler, Cuckoos chased back and forth, and we found Night Herons and Squacco Herons amongst the tangled tree roots on the river bank, one or two of each posing nicely as we sailed by.

After some negotiation of a fallen tree across our path, we reached the open water: the shallow bays were filled by vast beds of water lilies, home to large numbers of calling Marsh Frogs, Great Crested and Red-necked Grebes, Whiskered and Black Terns. One or two Dalmatian Pelicans were sailing on the water towards the far side of one of the lakes, with several flocks of White Pelicans soaring overhead. Lesser Emperor were hawking along the reed edges, Banded Demoiselles fluttering along the wooded channels, Red-eyed Damselflies were common amongst the lily pads and one or two Freyer's Purple Emperors were spotted around the willow trees.

Heading along the channel joining two of the lakes, we heard the high-pitched call of a Penduline Tit and found his nest, a splendid construction of willow fluff, bulrush seeds and spiders' silk, hanging from a willow twig. A pair of Golden Orioles were calling in the nearby trees, but neither they nor the tit put in an appearance this time.

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At lunch, the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler was back in his tamarisks, while the Hooded Crows and Caspian Gulls did their best to help the dog finish off his dinner of left-over schnitzel...

After lunch, we headed back out in the sunshine to the same general area, where the afternoon was spent in the company of the now-familiar 'usual suspects': cormorants and pelicans, herons and egrets, Mute Swans and Great Crested Grebes, Pochard and Ferruginous Duck, the occasional fly-by White-tailed Eagle and plenty of terns. After several hidden, tsee-ing Penduline Tits, we finally found a male building his nest in a bank-side willow, complete with a beak-ful of willow fluff.

Travelling across the lake back towards the channel, we passed through a large group of immature Little Gulls, dipping down to the water surface to feed on insects.

Back on board the *Kingfisher*, we were reunited with Mircea, and fed on barbeque and cake for our final dinner.

Day Nine: 22nd May. Uzlina to Bucharest, via Saraiu.

All of a sudden, our last day in Romania was heralded by the Eastern Olivaceous Warbler welcoming the sunshine from his tamarisk patch.

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our fantastic team on the houseboat *Kingfisher*, and took the little boats for one last trip, back to Murighiol and the bus, for the long journey back to Bucharest...

Our lunch break was back on the shores of Saraiu Lake, where a pair of Penduline Tit tsee-ed in the tree tops, the Great Reed Warblers chuntered from the reeds, and where newly-emerged butterflies included Cardinal and Queen of Spain Fritillary.

From there, it was back on the road, passing a colourful field of poppies, larkspur and mustard, before arriving back at the airport for our onward flights, variously to London and Vienna.

DANUBE DELTA 2018: some highlights



Top: Lake Uzlina.

First row, l to r: Marsh Frog and Squacco Heron

second row, l to r: *Anacamptis palustris*, Violet Birds-nest Orchid and European Bee-eaters

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ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)										
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		X	X	X					
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		X							
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		X	X		X	X		X	
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					X	X			
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		X	X						
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		X		X		X		X	
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)										
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)										
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		X				X		X	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X				X		X	
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>								X	
Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)										
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)										
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Ardeidae (Herons)										
Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			H	H					
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		X	X		X		X		
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola rolloides</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)										
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	X			X	X	X	
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>				X		X		X	
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)										
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)										
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>		X							
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>						X			
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>		X							
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		X							X
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>									X
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>		X	X			X	X		
Family Falconidae (Falcons)										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X						X
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>		X	X	X	X	X			
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		X	X	X	X	X		X	X
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)										
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X	X				X	X	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X			X		X	X	X

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Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)										
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X	X	X	X				
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		X	X	X	X	X			X
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)										
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>					X		X		
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)										
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>				X					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			X						
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			H						
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>			X				X		
Family Laridae (Gulls)										
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>		X							
Great Black-headed (=Pallas's) Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>				X					
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		X							
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		X						X	
Family Sternidae (Terns)										
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>				X					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>			X				X		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		X	X			X		X	
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>			X						
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>		X	X	X	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
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>							X	X	
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>			X		X	X			
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)										
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Apodidae (Swifts)										
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X		X					
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)										
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X	X	X	H			X	X
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)										
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		H	X	X	H	X	X	X	X
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)										
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	H	X
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)										
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)										
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			X	X	H	X	X	H	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>		X	X	X	H	X	X	X	X
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			X				X	X	X
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)										
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X							
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		X

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Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)										
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (alba) alba</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) feldegg</i>		X	X						
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)										
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)										
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		H	H	H		H	H	H	H
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			X	X		X	X	X	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					X				
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X							X
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>		X							
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>						X			
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			X		X	X			
Family Sylviidae (Scrub Warblers)										
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>						X	X	X	
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H	H		H			
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		H	H	X	X		H	H	
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>			X						
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)										
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		H		X					
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>			X	X					
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		H	H	X	X	X	X	X	X
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna elaeica</i>							X	X	X
Family Locustellidae (Grasshopper Warblers)										
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			H	H	H	X		H	
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)										
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		X	H	H		X		X	
Family Paridae (Tits)										
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)										
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>							X		
Family Panuridae (Bearded Tit)										
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				X		X		H	
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)										
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			H					X	
Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)										
European Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>						X	X		
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)										
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			X	X	X				X
Family Corvidae (Crows)										
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>		X							
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X	X	X		X	X			X
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	X	X	X	X					X
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	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
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>					X	X	X		
Family Oriolidae (Orioles)										
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		X	H	X		X	X	X	X

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Family Passeridae (Sparrows)										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Family Fringillidae (Finches)										
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		X	X	X	X	H	X	X	X
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		X							
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)										
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		X							
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		X							X

AMPHIBIANS										
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>			H	X	H	H	H	H	
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>			H						
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>			H	H	H	H	H	H	
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i>		H	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax kl. esculenta</i>			X						
REPTILES										
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>		X							
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>		X							
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>			X		X		X		
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>								X	
MAMMALS										
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>					H			X	
Raccoon Dog	<i>Nyctereutes procyonoides</i>			S						
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>					S		S		S
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>			X						
European Souselik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>		X							
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>							X		
European Mole	<i>Talpa europea</i>		D							

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LEPIDOPTERA: butterflies and moths		
Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>	Babadag, 15 th
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	Saraiu, 15 th
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus Icarus</i>	Saraiu, 15 th and 21 st
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	17 th , 20 th , 21 st
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	17 th , 19 th , 20 th
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	15 th , 16 th , 17 th ,
Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>	Amongst the willows, 21 st
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Saraiu, 22 nd
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	Saraiu, 22 nd
Small Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>	Saraiu, 15 th
Pale Tussock	<i>Calliteara pudibunda</i>	Babadag, 15 th
Speckled Yellow Moth	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>	Bagadag, 15 th
Brown China-mark	<i>Elophila myphaeata</i>	Uzlina fish ponds, 20 th
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Saraiu, 15 th
ODONATA: damselflies and dragonflies		
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	eg Dranov Channel
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	Along the dyke bank at Sfintu Gheorghe
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Common everywhere
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	On the lily pads, Uzlina, 21 st
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	One teneral, Sfintu Gheorghe
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Uzlina, 21 st
Green-eyed (=Norfolk) Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>	Very common in Babadag Forest
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Common in Babadag Forest
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	Saraiu, 22 nd
Scarce Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes dryas</i>	Along the dyke bank at Sfintu Gheorghe: more robust and more colourful
Southern Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>	Very common along the dyke bank at Sfintu Gheorghe
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>	teneral, Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th
MISCELLANEOUS		
Stag Beetle	<i>Lucanus cervus</i>	Amara, 15 th
Great Diving Beetle	<i>Dytiscus sp.</i>	Mating pair in the channel by the lunch spot, 16 th
Great Silver Water Beetle	<i>Hydrophilus piceus</i>	Several dead adults, Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa sp</i>	20 th
Antlion	<i>Myrmeleon sp.</i>	Babadag Forest, 15 th
Turkish Snail	<i>Helix lucorum</i>	Amara, 15 th
Great Ramshorn Snail	<i>Planorbis corneus</i>	Common in the Delta
Medicinal Leech	<i>Hirudo medicinalis</i>	In the channel by the lunch spot, 16 th

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Selected Plant Species

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES
FERNS			
	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
	<i>Salvinia natans</i>	Floating Water Fern	Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th
Alismataceae			
	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	Arrowhead	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Anacardiaceae			
	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush	Babadag, 15 th
Apocynaceae			
	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	Babadag, 15 th
	<i>Periploca graeca</i>		Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th : the vine with bizarre leaves
Apiaceae			
	<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fools Water Cress	Various wetlands
	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	Sfintu Gheorghe beach, 18 th
	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th
	<i>Cicuta virosa</i>	Northern Water Hemlock	Sfintu Gheorghe, 18 th
Aristolchiaceae			
	<i>Aristolochia clematis</i>	Birthwort	Saraiu, 15 th
Asteraceae			
	<i>Jurinia mollis</i>		Babadag, 15 th
Betulaceae			
	<i>Alnus gultinosa</i>	Common Alder	Common in the Delta
Brassicaceae			
	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	Perisor, 16 th
	<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	Greater Yellow Cress	Common in the Delta
Boraginaceae			
	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey	Delta
	<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Common Hound's-tongue	Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th
Butomaceae			
	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush	Sfintu Gheorghe beach, 18 th
Caprifoliaceae			
	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Delta river banks
Caryophyllaceae			
	<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	On sandy ground behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Ceratophyllaceae			
	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid Hornwort	in the shallow water, Uzlina lakes
	<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>	Soft Hornwort	in the shallow water, Uzlina lakes
Convolvulaceae			
	<i>Convolvulus persicus</i>	Sand Bindweed	Sfintu Gheorghe beach, 18 th
Corylaceae			
	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam	Babadag
Eleagnaceae			
	<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive	Common everywhere
Fabaceae			
	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	Riverbanks, 16 th
	<i>Astragalus glaucus</i>		Babadag, 15 th
	<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goats Rue	Along the riverbanks, Uzlina, 21 st
Fagaceae			
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	Babadagt

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Geraniaceae		
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	Babadag
Haloragaceae		
<i>Muriophyllum spicatum</i>	Spiked Water Milfoil	eg Sfintu Gheorghe
Hydrocharitaceae		
<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian Pondweed	Sfintu Gheorghe marina, 18 th
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water Soldier	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Frogbit	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Iridaceae		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Common in all the wetlands
Juglandaceae		
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	Common village tree
Lamiaceae		
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Babadag, 15 th
<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>		Babadag, 15 th
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Motherwort	Uzlina Fish Ponds, 20 th
<i>Lycopus europeus</i>	Gypsywort	Common in the Delta
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Common in the Delta
<i>Salvia austriaca</i>		Babadag, 15 th : white flowers
<i>Salvia nutans</i>	Nodding Sage	Babadag, 15 th : nodding flower heads
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Babadag, 15 th
Lemnaceae		
<i>Spirodela polyrhiza</i>	Greater Duckweed	eg Sfintu Gheorghe
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common Duckweed	Common in all the wetlands
<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	Ivy-leaved Duckweed	Common in all the wetlands
Linaceae		
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	Along the dyke bank, Sfintu Gheorghe
Menyanthaceae		
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Fringed Water Lily	the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Nymphaeaceae		
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water Lily	Common in the Delta
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water Lily	Common in the Delta
Oleaceae		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	Babadag
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash	Common in the Delta
Orchidaceae		
<i>Anacamptis palustris</i>		The tall purple spikes in the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe, 17 th
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Babadag, 15 th
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Birds-nest Orchid	Babadag, 15 th
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Babadag, 15 th
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Babadag, 15 th
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Babadag, 15 th
Paeoniaceae		
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>		Babadag, 15 th
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>		Babadag, 15 th
Poaceae		
<i>Stipa sp.</i>		Babadag, 15 th
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed Sweet-grass	Common in the Delta
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass	Common in the Delta
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Common in the Delta
Polygalaceae		
<i>Polygala major</i>	Large Milkwort	Babadag, 15 th

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Polygonaceae		
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock	Common throughout the Delta
Potamogetonaceae		
<i>Potamogeton pectinatis</i>	Fennel-leaved Pondweed	Common in the Delta
<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small Pondweed	Common in the Delta
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curled Pondweed	Common in the Delta
<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	Perfoliate Pondweed	Eg Sfintu Gheorghe marina
<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	Various-leaved Pondweed	Sfintu Gheorghe marina
<i>Potamogeton alpinus</i>	Red Pondweed	Sahalin lagoon
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Adonis verna</i>	Yellow Pheasant's Eye	Babadag, gone over, 15 th
<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>		Babadag, 15 th
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis agg.</i>	Water Crowfoot	Common through the Delta. At least two species growing near Sfintu Gheorghe
Salicaceae		
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Common in the Delta
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	Common in the Delta
Solanaceae		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Common in the Delta
Sparganiaceae		
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Tamaricaceae		
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk	Common through the Delta
Tiliaceae		
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime	Common village tree
Trapaceae		
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water Chestnut	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Typhaceae		
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Bulrush	Common in the Delta
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	eg the marshes behind Sfintu Gheorghe
Viscaceae		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Common in riverside trees