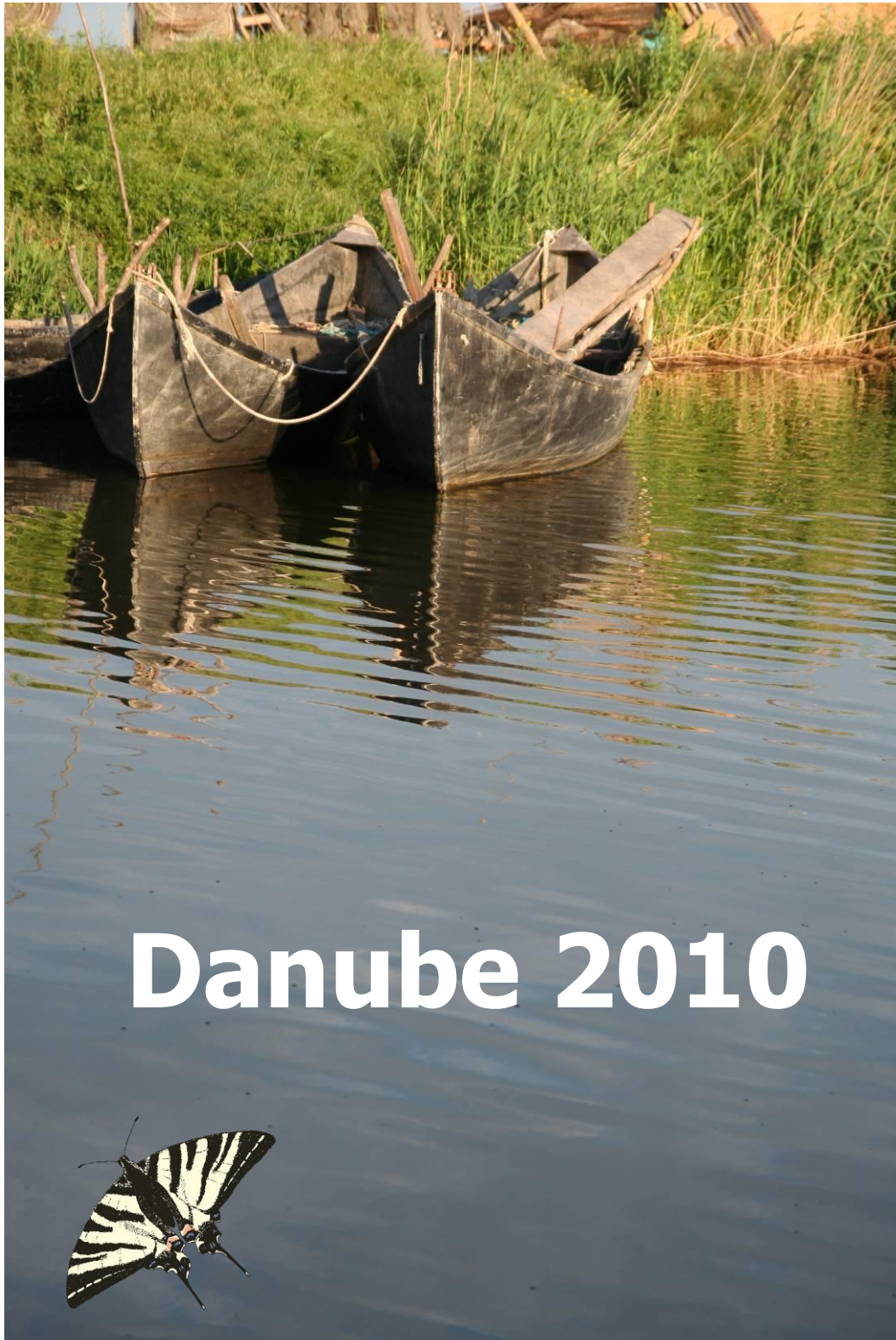


WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Danube 2010

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	15 th May	Arrival at Bucharest. o/n Motel Diamant, Amara
2	16 th May	Amara fish ponds; Giurgeni (village with stork nest); Saraiu (lake with Ruddy Shelduck); Babadag Forest (lunch); Enisala (fortress on hill); Sarinasuf (salt lake); Plopu, Lake Saraturii (gull colony); Murighiol (joined boat); Uzlina (where we boarded the Kingfisher).
3	17 th May	Uzlina to Sfintu Gheorghe, by tug.
4	18 th May	Sacalinu Island. Sfintu Gheorghe.
5	19 th May	Sfintu Gheorghe. Dranov Channel to Lake Dranov.
6	20 th May	Lake Dranov. Perisor. Holbina.
7	21 st May	Dranov Channel, Dunavat Channel. Lake Taranova, Lake Gorgostel.
8	22 nd May	Taranova. Uzlina marshlands.
9	23 rd May	Lakes Uzlina and Pojarnia. Afternoon walk along the river.
10	24 th May	Uzlina to Murighiol. Lunch stop at Saraiu. Bucharest Otopeni Airport.

LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leaders

Philip Precey: Cambridge

Tamás Miholcsa: Romania

Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 15th to 24th May 2010

ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)											
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		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	X	X	X
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>							X	X	X	
Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)											
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>		X	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	X
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Ardeidae (Hérons)											
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>			H	X	X	H	H			
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		X				X			X	
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>		X	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	X	X
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)											
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		X								
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)											
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		X	X	X				X		
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)											
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		X	X	X	X		X			
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>		X								X
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>			X	X						
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>				X						
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>					X		X	X		
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		X								
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>							X			
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)											
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					X	X	X		X	
Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>		X								
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>		X								
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>		X								X
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>			X							

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ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
Family Falconidae (Falcons)											
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)											
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)											
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>					H	H				
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X				X	X	X	X	
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)											
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X	X	X	X		X			
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		X	X	X	X		X			
Family Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)											
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>				X						
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)											
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareolus pratincola</i>		X								
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)											
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				X						
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)											
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				X						
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>					X		X			
Family Laridae (Gulls)											
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		X				X		X	X	
Great Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>			X	X	X		X			
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	X	X			X	X		X		
Family Sternidae (Terns)											
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>				X						
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>		X								
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>					X		X			
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)											
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	X	X								X
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>							X	X		
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>				X		X	X			
Family Strigidae (Owls)											
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>										X
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)											
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Apodidae (Swifts)											
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X			X
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)											
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)											
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		H	X		X		X	X	X	X
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)											
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)											
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)											
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>								H	X	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>					H	X	H	X	X	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>				X	X		X	X	X	X
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>		X								
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>		X			H			X	X	
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>								H		
Family Alaudidae (Larks)											
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	X	X								
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>										X
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>		X								
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)											
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X	X	X	X			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
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		X		X			
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) flava</i>				X			X			
'Romanian' Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) dombroskii</i>			X						X	
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and Chats)											
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			H							
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H	H			H	X	X
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>								H		
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>						X		X	X	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X		X						X
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				X		X				
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			H							
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			H		X		X		X	
Family Sylviidae (Warblers)											
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			H		H	X	H	H	H	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			H	X	X	X	H	X	X	H
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>						H				
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>				X	X	X				
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			H	H	X	X	H	X	X	
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>					X					
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X	H	X	X	X	X	X	X	H
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		X	H	H	X	H	H	H		
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>			H			H				
Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Hippolais pallida</i>			X	X				X	H	H
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H	H	X		H	H		
Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers)											
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>				X		X				
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				X				X		
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>								X	X	

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Family Paridae (Tits)											
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			X		X	X	X	X	X	
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>				X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)											
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>					X				X	
Family Panuridae (Bearded Tit)											
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				X	X	X	X		X	
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)											
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				X						
Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)											
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>							X	X	X	
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)											
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X			X
Family Corvidae (Crows)											
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	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
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>			X							
Family Oriolidae (Orioles)											
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	H	X	H	H
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)											
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X		X					X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		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	
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>		X								X
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X						X
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>					H					
Trumpeter Finch	<i>Bucanetes githagineus</i>			X							
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)											
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			X	X	X	X	X		H	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		X								
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			X							
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>						X				
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X								X

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ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
AMPHIBIANS											
Frogs and Toads											
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>		H	H	X	H		H	X	H	
Common Tree Frog	<i>Hyla arborea</i>		H		X			H		H	
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>		X	H	X	H	X	X	X	X	X
Pool Frog	<i>Rana lessonae</i>				X						
REPTILES											
Tortoises and Terrapins											
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>		X				X	X			X
Lizards											
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>		X								
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>		X								
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>		X								
Snakes											
Large Whip Snake	<i>Coluber caspius</i>		X								
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>		X	D							
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>						X				
Orsini's Viper	<i>Vipera ursinii</i>					D					
MAMMALS											
Larger Mammals											
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>				0			X	X		
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>					X		D	X		
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	X							X		
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	X	X				X				
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>	X	X								X
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>					X	X				
Bottle-nosed Dolphin	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>				X						
Cats-and-Dogs	<i>Precipitation major</i>							X			X



Balkan Wall Lizard



European Tree Frog

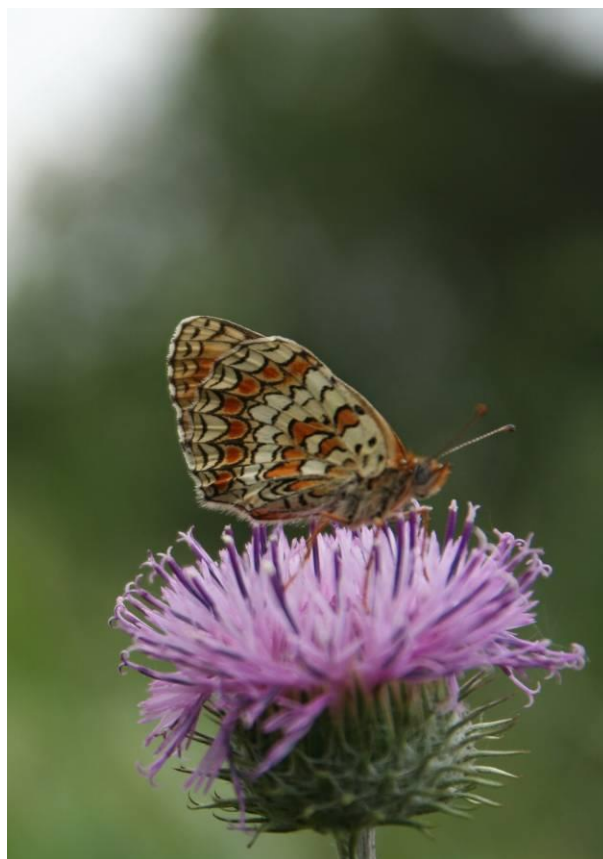
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BUTTERFLIES													
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>		X										
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venata</i>											X	
Black-veined White	<i>Aporia crataegi</i>		X										
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>		X							X			
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>						X					X	
Knapweed Fritillary	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>		X										
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>		X										
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>		X										
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>					X			X			X	
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>											X	

ODONATA													
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>							X				X	
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>			X								X	
Southern Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>			X									
Common Blue Damselfly	<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>		X										
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	X		
Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>							X	X	X			
Red-veined Darter	<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>		X				X						
Scarce Chaser	<i>Libellula fulva</i>						X						
Broad Scarlet	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>							X				X	
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>		X										
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>		X										
Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>									X			
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>		X				X		X	X	X		
Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>		X				X	X	X	X	X		



Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker



Knapweed Fritillary

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Selected Plant Species

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
	Aceraceae		
	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	Elder-like leaves, growing along rivers, delta
	Alismataceae		
	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain	Delta
	Anacardiaceae		
	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush	Low-growing, round-leaved shrub, Babadag
	Apocynaceae		
	<i>Vinca minor</i>	Lesser Periwinkle	Babadag
	Apiaceae		
	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock	Delta, field margins. Purple spotted, smells of mice.
	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	Sacalinu Island, on sand at the back of the beach
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngium	Babadag. Broad, bluish, spiny leaves
	Boraginaceae		
	<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Alkanet	Bright blue flowers, near the Trumpeter Finch
	<i>Asperugo procumbens</i>	Madwort	Small blue flowers, scrambling bristly weed, delta
	Betulaceae		
	<i>Alnus gultinosa</i>	Common Alder	Common riverside tree in the drier parts of the delta
	Brassicaceae		
		Flixweed	Eg along the walk to Dranov Lake
	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	On the beach at Perisor
	Butomaceae		
	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush	Tall rush with pink flowers, delta
	Ceratophyllaceae		
	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid Hornwort	Delta
	<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>	Soft Hornwort	Delta
	Corylaceae		
	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam	Babadag Forest
	Dipsacaceae		
	<i>Dipsacus sylvestris</i>	Teasel	Delta
	Fabaceae		
	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	Riverside shrub, introduced from North America
	Fagaceae		
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	The hairy-leaved oak in the Babadag Forest.
	Geraniaceae		
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	Babadag
	Haloragaceae		
	<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Spike Water Milfoil	Delta
	Hydrocharitaceae		
	<i>Elodea canadensis</i>	Canadian Pondweed	Shallow lakes, delta
	<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water Soldier	Delta: floating plant, like pineapple tops
	<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Frogbit	Delta: floating plant, small round leaves
	Iridaceae		
	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Common in the delta
	Juglandaceae		
	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	A very common village tree
	Lamiaceae		
	<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Babadag: yellow flowers
	<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>		Babadag: white flowers
	<i>Lycopus europeus</i>	Gypsywort	Delta
	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Delta
	<i>Salvia nutans</i>	Nodding Sage	Babadag
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Common roadside sage

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
Lemnaceae			
	<i>Spirodela polyrhiza</i>	Greater Duckweed	Delta
	<i>Lemna gibba</i>	Fat Duckweed	Delta
	<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common Duckweed	Delta
	<i>Lemna trisulca</i>	Ivy-leaved Duckweed	Delta
Linaceae			
	<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	Pale blue flax
Menyanthaceae			
	<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Fringed Water Lily	Delta: the small lily pads
Moraceae			
	<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Another common village tree
Nymphaeaceae			
	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water Lily	Delta
	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water Lily	Delta
Oleaceae			
	<i>Fraxinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	
	<i>Syringa vulgaris</i>	Lilac	
Orchidaceae			
	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Babadag: very tall, darker
	<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Babadag: smaller, paler
	<i>Orchis elegans</i>		The tall purple 'marsh' orchid, Sfantu Gheorghe
	<i>Lithodorum arbotivum</i>	Violet Limodore	Babadag: purple hemi-parasite
	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Babadag, just one plant
	<i>Cephalanthera damasonianum</i>	White Helleborine	Babadag, just one plant
Paeoniaceae			
	<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>		The large red paeony, Babadag
Papaveraceae			
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Corn Poppy	
	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine	
Poaceae			
	<i>Stipa pennata</i>		The feathery grass typical of the steppes, Babadag
	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed Sweet-grass	Delta
	<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass	Delta
	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	The reedbed reed, Delta
Polygalaceae			
	<i>Polygala major</i>	Large Milkwort	Babadag
Polygonaceae			
	<i>Polygonum amphibium</i>	Amphibious Bistort	Delta
	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock	The giant dock in the delta
Potamogetonaceae			
	<i>Potamogeton pectinatis</i>	Fennel-leaved Pondweed	Long fine-leaved pondweed, delta
	<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curled Pondweed	Submerged, longish broad-leaved pondweed, delta
	<i>Potamogeton perfoliatus</i>	Perfoliate Pondweed	Submerged, round-leaved pondweed, delta
	<i>Potamogeton lucens</i>	Shining Pondweed	Long, rounded, submerged leaves, delta
	<i>Potamogeton gramineus</i>	Various-leaved Pondweed	Floating leaves, delta
Ranunculaceae			
	<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>		Babadag Forest: upright blue clematis
	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Wild Clematis	Babadag Forest: scrambling over the roadside
	<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	Delta
	<i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> agg.	Water Crowfoot	Small white flowers, Delta
Salicaceae			
	<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	The main riverside tree in the delta
	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow	A bush-forming willow, in the delta

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
	Scrophulariaceae		
	<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>		The dark purple mullein, Babadag
	Solanaceae		
	<i>Petunia parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Petunia	On the beach, Sahalin Island.
	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Purple flowers, growing in reed beds, delta
	Sparganiaceae		
	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed	Delta
	<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	Floating Bur-reed	Delta
	Tamaricaceae		
	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk	The pinky shrub on sandier places in the delta
	Tiliaceae		
	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime	Common roadside tree
	Trapaceae		
	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water Chestnut	Floating rosettes and spiny 'nut', delta
	Typhaceae		
	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Bulrush	Common in the delta
	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	Common in the delta
	Urticaceae		
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle	The stingless, fenland form
	Viscaceae		
	<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Common on willows
	Zannichelliaceae		
	<i>Zannichellia palustris</i>	Horned Pondweed	Hair-like pondweed, delta



Petunia parviflora



Clematis integrifolia

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Highlights of the holiday (thanks to Andrew and Pam)

Day 1: we get away, with two hours to spare, so we're told.

Day 2: The Babadag Forest, with dragonflies and paeonies.

Day 3: "Navy Larks" and Trumpeter Finch.

Day 4: George and Tamas, pulling the boats to Sahalin Island.

Day 5: Lazy cruise. Evening spotting of Paddyfield Warbler, and a lot of mossies...

Day 6: Shell beach on the Black Sea, old fish station with a stork's nest on top.

Day 7: Broken window on the Kingfisher. Deluge of rain.

Day 8: Shooting the rapids as waters flood into the marsh. Thousands of frogs.

Day 9: When baby grebes thought our boat was mummy!

Day 10: leaving... ☹ and Crested Lark, our 141st bird.

Day One: 15th May. Arrival in Bucharest and transfer to Amara

After a very straightforward flight from the shiny new Terminal 5 at Heathrow, we arrived safely in Bucharest, met up with the rest of the group, together with our guides Tomas and George, and then set off for our first hotel, the Motel Diamant in Amara. One or two roadside birds were seen along the way, including our first Red-footed Falcons, Red-backed Shrikes, Black-headed Wagtails and even a Roller or two.

Day Two: 16th May. Travel to the Delta

The day started for some with a pre-breakfast walk around the lakes opposite the hotel, where highlights included good looks at both Great Reed Warbler and a lovely Savi's Warbler; our first chance to compare Whiskered and Common Terns; a few Ferruginous Ducks, with their white vent and, in the case of males, white eyes; and a nice Golden Oriole singing in a small orchard.

After breakfast, we were on our way. The first start of the day was the village of Giurgeni, where a brief stop to admire a White Stork nest by the roadside and its associated colony of Spanish Sparrows soon become less-brief, as a large spiralling 'kettle' of migrating White Storks came over, together with three Lesser Spotted Eagles and a single Black Stork. Behind us, first a Hobby and then our first Pygmy Cormorant of the trip came through over the trees.

Next stop was by the lake at Saraiu. Mute Swan, Pochard and Great Crested Grebe were out on the lake itself, while overhead we watched Hobby, Red-footed Falcon, Kestrel and a single Steppe Buzzard, the migratory eastern race of 'our' Common Buzzard. Nearer at hand, newly emerged Black-tailed Skimmer and a couple of nice male Red-veined Darters were our first dragonflies of the trip, while several Balkan Wall Lizards were scuttling through the grass. The highlight of this first stop, however, came just as we were getting back on the bus, with an adult Ruddy Shelduck flying down the valley, before heading back up again!

We reached the Babadag Forest in time to enjoy a wander through the woods before lunch. The bird highlight of these woods was Ortolan Bunting, with several singing birds, including a pair that



The Fortress at Enisala



Great Black-headed Gull

showed very well in small nearby trees. The main attraction of the Babadag was the flora, and particularly the orchids: tall Lady Orchids in the shade of the woodland edge, paler Monkey Orchids in brighter sunshine, the bizarre hemi-parasitic Violet Limodore in the deeper shade, and one plant each of two white species: White Helleborine and Greater Butterfly Orchid. Other noteworthy flowers included the gorgeous Peony, the blue flowered, upright *Clematis integrifolia*, and abundant Nodding Sage *Salvia*.

On the dry grassland slopes by the fortress at Enisala, we watched the colony of European Sauslik, as well as their predator, an adult Long-legged Buzzard, while nearby we had our first take of the birds of the Delta: herons, egrets, pelicans and ducks, including a pair of gorgeous Red-crested Pochards.

Heading into the flatlands surrounding the Delta, we stopped at the dried salt lake at Sarinasuf, where a couple of additions to the trip list included Common Shelduck and some very distant Collared Pratincoles. From here we moved on to Lake Saraturii, where the large gull and tern colony was made up of Mediterranean, Black-headed and Caspian Gulls and Common and Whiskered Terns, with a small number of Black-winged Stilts, Avocets and Black-necked Grebes scattered through them.

And finally we made it to Murighiol, where we joined our boat...

Day Three: 17th May. Uzlina to Sfintu Gheorghe

A relaxing (if windy) day spent travelling slowly down stream to our mooring for the night.

Along the way we enjoyed some of the typical birds of the Delta: a large loose flock of at least 200 White Pelicans, including an albino bird with no black at all in the wings; a handful of Dalmatian Pelicans, appearing in ones or twos, with their less contrasting wing pattern and 'angrier' face; the colourful three – Kingfisher, Roller and Bee-eater all appeared in good numbers; the two small falcons, Hobby and Red-footed Falcon in small groups, hawking over the trees for dragonflies. Highlight of the journey was probably the small numbers of Great Black-headed Gull (or Pallas's Gull if you prefer... although that seems such a poor name for such an impressive beast!), a real local speciality, looking stunning in their breeding colours. Or perhaps the Rose-coloured Starling, perched at the top of a dead tree.

After a lunch of carp and catfish, we 'enjoyed' a dramatic wind-blown mooring at Sfintu Gheorghe, followed by the even more entertaining mooring of a government boat carrying army trucks and a shiny black Nissan... the answer to the famous joke 'how many Romanian Army does it take to land a Nissan on the river bank' being 16... so long as you don't mind a dent.

After the afternoon's entertainment, we took the tug along the channel, with some stunning fly-bys by both Hobby and a male Red-footed Falcon along the way. The tug dropped us off on the river bank, and we then walked back along the path, passing reedbeds and marshes before returning to the boat.

Despite the cold wind, we picked up some good finds along the path. Tall purple spikes of *Orchis palustris* were growing out in the marsh, while the canal itself was home to three species of water lily (*Nuphar lutea*, *Nymphaea alba* and *Nymphoides peltata*), water chestnut *Trapa natans* and a good selection of pondweeds, all species indicative of nutrient-rich waters. Along the riverbank, large numbers of newly-emerged damselflies were mainly White-legged Damselflies, plus a single

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Southern Emerald Damselfly. Singing warblers included Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Reed Warbler, Icterine Warbler and a skulking Olivaceous Warbler in a riverside bush. A couple of confiding Red-backed Shrikes, and a less friendly Lesser Grey Shrike were seen. Out on the marshes, Ferruginous Ducks and Black-necked Grebes showed well in the evening light, together with a lovely Marsh Harrier quartering very close to. A real surprise was a Rose-coloured Starling that flew across the marsh to land in a nearby bush, showing its black crest and pink underparts. However, the star bird of the afternoon, (and indeed the rarest bird of the trip, being only the second Romanian record EVER for a bird which normally lives in the deserts of Syria or North Africa) was the small, sandy and pink finch that Pam saw fly into the small bush next to us as we watched the harrier... a bright adult male Trumpeter Finch!

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

The morning excursion was out to Sacalinu Island, a trip which included a tug-journey along one of the channels, before transferring across the shallow lagoon in the small boats and a final muddy disembarkation on the island itself.

Along the channel we enjoyed good views of large numbers of White Pelican, a couple of Bearded Tits flew across the water and a female Red-breasted Flycatcher landed in a tree by the boat as the second half of the group waited to be ferried over to the island. The morning was marked out by a very strong cold wind, which had most of us wondering what we could possibly see on the island which would be worth the effort... luckily, the answer was 'plenty!'.

The back of the shore was home to the white-flowered *Petunia parviflora*, a pretty little flower with a curiously disjointed distribution: it grows around the northern shores of the Black Sea, and then in North America, and nowhere in between. Along the sandy beach we also found a few Little Ringed Plovers, including a well-camouflaged nest of four perfect eggs.

On the shallow lagoon, a large roost of terns was made up mostly of Common Tern, together with smaller numbers of the larger, paler Sandwich Tern and a couple of lovely sooty Black Terns. A Spoonbill fed amongst the White Pelicans, and a pair of Wigeon were sat quietly amongst the Shelduck. In the reeds behind the beach, Reed and Great Reed Warbler were singing. More exciting were a couple of Bearded Tits which flew across the top of the reeds, allowing some of us to get ok views. Even less confiding was a single Paddyfield Warbler, which was heard singing and glimpsed a couple of times just by two of us, showing its rich rusty brown back and tail, and the contrasting head pattern.

After returning to the tug, our journey back along the channel was enlivened by a fly-by Bittern, several Hobby and large numbers of Night Herons. After a lunch of catfish and carp, the first birds we saw were a party of six Blue-headed Wagtails feeding around the cattle on the river bank.

We took an afternoon walk through the village and then out through the dunes and marshes towards the Black Sea... and back. Unfortunately, the path was flooded and we had to retrace our steps. Some very colourful frogs in the pools towards the village were watched calling, and identified as Edible Frogs on account of their white rather than grey vocal pouches. Notable amongst the afternoon's birds were some very showy shrikes: several Red-backed Shrikes and a couple of gorgeous Lesser Grey Shrikes were particularly confiding, allowing everyone to get to grips with these two handsome birds. Equally impressive were the pair of Golden Oriole which were playing around in some bushes, the male particularly splendid in the late afternoon light. Less visually impressive, but with an interesting scratchy song was the male Olivaceous Warbler

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singing from a patch of Tamarisk scrub. Around the drier parts of the dunes we found the cone-shaped feeding pits of the antlion larvae, and dug a couple of these voracious predators out of the sand. Also seen out here was a very nice fly-by Roller and a lovely European Tree Frog, before we made our weary way back to the boat.

Dinner was a lovely stew of Greylag Goose, continuing our theme of eating the view! Oriole kebabs, anyone?

Day Five: 19th May. Dranov Channel and Lake Dranov

A pre-breakfast walk started the day off nicely with some good reedbed birds: a showy Savi's Warbler, a fly-past Bittern, the usual Marsh Harrier and some very nice Bearded Tits, including two males who were so busy collecting flies from the bushes that they forgot to pay any attention to us.

After breakfast we set off travelling back up the main channel, before turning off south west along the narrow Dranov Channel. A handful of Great Black-headed Gulls were around during the journey, along with plenty of the other 'usual' delta birds. Less 'usual' were the family of Wild Boar we saw feeding under the willows, and the two White-tailed Eagles that came over, first an immature bird soon followed by a superb white-tailed adult. What was presumably the same bird was seen on and off during the day, soaring high up over the delta.

Once we'd turned into the Dranov Channel, we started hearing Nightingale and Golden Oriole, and seeing Pygmy Cormorant and Roller along the river banks. A pair of Red-footed Falcons showed extremely well, perched up in the treetops as we motored slowly past. Heard from the riverside trees were both Lesser Spotted and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, while a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew past.

An open area of flooded grassland produced plenty of new sightings, particularly marsh terns, with good numbers of Whiskered and Black Terns flicking over the vegetation, as well as maybe ten White-winged Black Terns, very smart with their much cleaner black and white plumage. Also here were three Garganey and a large group of Ruff which flew up and around as we past.

We moored near Lake Dranov and took a late afternoon wander along the bank and through the reedbeds. The evening light was perfect for bird watching over the marsh, and we enjoyed excellent views of 'the usual' spectaculars: Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrike, Roller, Hoopoe and Cuckoo. More subtle in their charms were the singing warblers: as well as the now-familiar Reed, Great Reed and Savi's Warblers, we also have good views first of a singing Marsh Warbler (a duller more grey brown than Reed Warbler and with a different song), and then a wonderful Paddyfield Warbler, showing off his rusty chestnut back, clean white throat, pale underparts, short, blunt wings and beautiful contrasting face pattern: a real local speciality and a definite highlight of the day.

Walking back to the boat in good spirits, we found yet more Bearded Tits showing well, and a Muskrat that swam across the channel behind us. The day ended with a booming Bittern in the reedbeds and Romanian pork on the barbeque.



Day Six: 20th May. Dranov, Perisor beach and shallow lakes around Holbina

Another early morning walk took us through the reeds to within sight of the shores of Lake Dranov: amongst the 'usual' warblers, herons and shrikes, we had good views of a pair of White-tailed Eagles, one adult flying off but a second perched up on a small bush fairly close.

Our morning excursion was by small boat, down the channels to the Black Sea coast at Perisor. Along the way we enjoyed excellent close-up views of several Red-footed Falcons, as well as the 'old favourites', Roller and Squacco Heron.

We disembarked at the site of a now-disused fish farm, where a very large White Stork nest was, surprisingly, devoid of sparrows! A couple of small bushes were home to Spotted Flycatcher, Red-backed Shrike and a lovely male Whinchat. In the reeds at least two Paddyfield Warblers were singing, perched up on the top of the reeds showing off their white throat, chestnut tail and contrasting face pattern. The beach was alive with dragonflies, one or two Red-veined Darter and masses of Lesser Emperors feeding in the shelter of the bushes. A Brown Hare was also here, only running away at the last minute. Just as we returned to the boats, Tamas found a small party of Black-headed Bunting, a very scarce bird this far north, including a lovely adult male and two youngsters. Back on the small boats, we took a detour down a side channel, which allowed us to get up close to a large breeding colony of Cormorants.

After lunch (and the requisite nap time), we went out again, this time on the tug which took us around to the far side of the lake, in the Holbina area, where we decanted into the small boats again and explored the tiny side channels and shallow lakes. Highlights for some included a Musk Rat and a male Little Bittern, while there was a continual 'background' of pelicans, Ferruginous Duck, Marsh Harrier, Bearded Tits and the like.

On the tug journey back to the boat, as well as some great views of Hobby, Red-footed Falcon and Roller in the evening light, we also found a pair of Grey-headed Woodpecker perched up on the wires.

Dinner was some wonderful chunks of Delta Wild Boar.

Day Seven: 21st May. Dranov to Dunavat.

The day started with good news from home, where despite the strike BA had confirmed that our flight was due to be running as normal... fingers crossed!

After breakfast we set off back down the Dranov Channel. On reaching the wide area of marshland visible to the north of the channel, we all gathered on the viewing deck: again, White-winged Black Tern and Ruff were present, along with Garganey and a single male Tufted Duck amongst the Pochard. An adult White-tailed Eagle was busy putting the fear of god into the Greylag Goose families and Shelduck, showing very well as it perched up on the lake shore. A large foxy face watching us out of the reeds proved through the telescope to be a Golden Jackal, an excellent sighting of what can be a very shy mammal.

Other riverside sightings were less exciting, but did include a couple of European Pond Terrapin and several Glossy Ibis, as well as several Grey-headed Woodpecker heard calling from the riverside willows, but alas not showing themselves.

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We moored up at Dunavat for lunch, and to enjoy the spectacle of the torrential rain... the weather continues its unkindness.

After lunch, and through some inspired timing on George's part, we managed to enjoy a trip out by tug and the small boats, to the small lakes of Taranova and Gorgostel, where Whiskered Terns and Red-necked Grebes nested amongst the floating lily pads, and all without a drop of rain. In fact, the evening turned out to be a glorious one. Perfect!

Before dinner, a few of us even managed a short walk through the wet poplar woodland, where Great Spotted Woodpecker and Treecreeper both put in appearances, along with some nice dragonflies sheltering in the wet grass.

Day Eight: 22nd May. Taranova and Uzlina.

Tamas was up early and out in the poplar woods with some of us on the hunt for woodpeckers again. This time both Lesser and Great Spotted were found, with Grey-headed calling nearby, but alas their larger, blacker cousin couldn't be found. More of a surprise was the Golden Jackal that trotted along the bank at the back of the wood after breakfast, pausing briefly to have a good look at the boat load of interlopers, before disappearing into the undergrowth.

During the morning we motored back up river to Uzlina, passing by calling Wryneck and a singing Thrush Nightingale en route.

After another rainy lunchtime, and another well earned nap (it's tiring work, sitting on a boat watching the Rollers of the Danube Delta flow past the window!), we were greeted by yet more glorious weather in time for our afternoon excursion. For once the weather gods seem to be with us!

This afternoon, the small boats took us into uncharted territory, slipping through the reedbeds and shallow lakes around Uzlina. Here it wasn't so much the individual species that were the highlights as the spectacle: the massed chorus of frogs, and the experience of moving through the waterways well away from civilisation. Magical. And a Red-necked Grebe was nice to see too...

After our African Queen moment, we decanted onto the river bank for a short walk, with floodplain forest to the left and some glorious marshland to the right, home to Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill and egrets. A Roe Deer put in a quick, splashing appearance, as did a singing Olivaceous Warbler. A Black Woodpecker was heard calling in the trees but, alas, didn't put in an appearance... A male Collared Flycatcher in a small riverbank tree was another tantalising glimpse, unfortunately only seen well by three of us. The one that got away...

Dinner was barbequed herring and some spicy duck pasta. Delicious, as ever.

Day Nine: 23rd May. Lakes Uzlina and Pojarnia.

The morning saw us board the little boats for one last excursion into the lakes, channels and reedbeds, where we finally got up close to fishing White Pelicans, busy herding a school of small fish into the shallows. Whiskered Tern and Black Terns flicked overhead, while a family of humbug-like Great Crested Grebe chicks decided that one of our boats looked like a decent surrogate mother.

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In the afternoon, we ventured upstream some distance, before disembarking on the river bank for some exploring. At last the sun was out, and the butterflies were taking advantage of it: Small Heath, Large Skipper and several wonderful Large Coppers were all found in the riverbank vegetation, as well as a good variety of dragonflies and damselflies. Somewhat larger was the large hairy pig that came snuffling along the bank. Not quite a Wild Boar, but impressive all the same.

The late afternoon light was good for admiring the bronzy Glossy Ibis, a confiding male Red-backed Shrike and a circling White-tailed Eagle, with his blonde head and white tail shining out in the sunlight. Even the rain storm on the way back to the boat wasn't enough to dampen spirits.

Dinner included some wonderful home-made Wild Boar sausages and an impressively decorated cake, a suitably impressive farewell meal.