

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Danube 2012

## Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012

#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	16 <sup>th</sup> May	Arrival at Bucharest. o/n Motel Diamant, Amara
2	17 <sup>th</sup> May	Amara fish ponds; Giurgeni (village with stork nest); Saraiu Lake; Babadag Forest (lunch); Lake Saraturii (gull colony); Murighiol (joined boat); Uzlina (where we boarded the Kingfisher)
3	18 <sup>th</sup> May	Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac
4	19 <sup>th</sup> May	Uzlina to Sfintu Gheorghe, by tug.
5	20 <sup>th</sup> May	Sacalin Island and Sfintu Gheorghe.
6	21 <sup>st</sup> May	Lake Erenciuc. By tug to Dunavat.
7	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Dranov Channel, Perisor, Holbina.
8	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Perivolovca Channel, Lake Taranova, Lake Gorgostel. Dunavat to Uzlina.
9	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Uzlina to Murighiol. Drive back along Danube to Macin Hills. o/n Amara
10	25 <sup>th</sup> May	From Amara back to Bucharest and home

### **LIST OF TRAVELLERS**

#### **Leader**

Philip Precey: Wildlife Travel

George Panait

A gallery of some of Philip's photos from the holiday can be seen on Wildlife Travel's Flickr site, at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wildlifetravel/sets/72157629890165028/>

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### Day One: 16<sup>th</sup> May. Arrival in Bucharest and transfer to Amara

After a very straightforward flight from Heathrow, we arrived safely at the nice new terminal at Bucharest where we were met by George, and then set off for our first hotel, the Motel Diamant in Amara, via some very heavy rain showers. One or two roadside birds were seen along the way, including our first Red-footed Falcons, Red-backed Shrikes and even a Roller or two.

### Day Two: 17<sup>th</sup> May. Travel to the Delta

The day started with a pre-breakfast wander around the fishing lakes opposite the hotel, where highlights included good looks at the very loud Great Reed Warblers, a male Little Bittern who flew past several times, a showy Hoopoe on the path and plenty of Ferruginous Ducks, as well as Grass Snake taking an early morning swim. On the roadside near the hotel we found quite a lot of Ground Pine, a very rare plant back home.

After breakfast, we were on our way. The first start of the day was the village of Giurgeni, where we made a brief stop to admire a White Stork nest by the roadside and its associated mixed colony of House and Spanish Sparrows.

Next stop was by the lake at Saraiu. Red-crested Pochard, Great Crested Grebe and plenty of Coot were out on the lake itself, while four Glossy Ibis were feeding along the stream behind us and a Purple Heron stalked through the reeds.

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 males. Unfortunately, the orchids were mostly going over, so the Lady Orchid, Monkey Orchid and Toothed Orchid weren't quite as impressive as they probably were a fortnight ago! Similarly, the Peonies were also gone over, but instead we enjoyed the blue flowered, upright *Clematis integrifolia*, the large pink *Polygala major* and abundant Nodding Sage *Salvia nutans* and *Ajuga laxmannii*.

Amongst the undergrowth we found Balkan Wall Lizard, Balkan Green Lizard, a tiny Snake-eyed Skink and a baby Spur-thighed Tortoise. The air was busy with Green-eyed Hawkets (or what would be Norfolk Hawker back home), and butterflies included a couple of different Blues and both Grizzled and Mallow Skipper. A couple of Ladybird Spiders were nice to see, as well as the tell-tale pits of Antlions, along the sandy path.

Heading into the flatlands surrounding the Delta, we stopped at 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. The muddy shores held several groups of small waders including Ringed, Little Ringed and Grey Plovers, Ruff, Little Stint and a couple of Curlew Sandpipers, while a male Marsh Harrier was the first of many.

And finally we made it to Murighiol, where we bid goodbye to Calin and were ferried off to our boat, passing a very well behaved Long-eared Owl and its chick on the way!

### Day Three: 18<sup>th</sup> May. Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac

Today was our first introduction to the waterways and wetland of the Delta proper. Travelling in the two small boats, 'captained' by George and Lucien, we travelled through the reedbeds, along narrow waterways and out into a series of shallow lakes.

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As we travelled along the waterways, a constant parade of herons appeared along the banks: Squacco Heron, Night Heron, Grey Heron, Little Egret and Glossy Ibis were all abundant, with one or two Purple Herons and a pair of Great White Egrets. The riverside trees were also home to a couple of Roller and a fly-past Grey-headed Woodpecker. Amongst the reeds, small birds included the constant sound of Reed and Savi's Warblers, and small numbers of both Bearded Tit and Penduline Tit heard, with one of each putting in an appearance for some during the day.

Reaching the open water, shallow bays were filled by vast beds of water lilies, home to colonies of Whiskered and Black Terns. Elsewhere we found large populations of Water Soldier, with Frogbit in some of the narrower ditches, alongside water chestnut *Trapa natans* and a good selection of pondweeds, all species indicative of nutrient-rich waters.

Large groups of Coot could be found feeding in some of the lakes, alongside Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Pochard and Ferruginous Duck. Large numbers of Pygmy Cormorant were also present, feeding in groups or resting in dead trees at the water's edge. A pair of White-tailed Eagle put on a good display, with an immature bird nearby. But the highlight was perhaps the large numbers of feeding pelicans, several hundred White Pelicans gathered together to feed on fish alongside large numbers of Great Cormorants, and one or two Dalmatian Pelicans.

A very nice introduction to the wildlife of the Delta!

### **Day Four: 19<sup>th</sup> 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 birdwatching from the viewing deck of the boat. A couple of White-tailed Eagles passed close by; a large flock of White Pelicans rode the thermals, together with a single Dalmatian Pelican with its less contrasting wing pattern; several colonies of Bee-eater were found along the sandy banks, with the colourful birds flycatching alongside the boat; two Hobbies zipped past; while Golden Oriole, Nightingale, Cuckoo, Great Reed and Reed Warblers could be heard singing most of the morning. 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.

After a lunch of tasty Danubian Carp we reached our destination and moored up opposite the village of Sfintu Gheorghe for a well-deserved rest (it's a tiring business, this birdwatching lark!).

In the afternoon, 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 on the right and a muddy bird-packed lagoon on the left, before turning off through the village and returning to the boat.

A handful of confiding Lesser Grey Shrikes were seen hunting along the path, as well as a female Red-backed Shrike. Out on the marshes, Ferruginous Ducks and Shelduck were feeding, with some very noisy colonies of Common Tern, Black-winged Stilt and Avocet. The water had dropped in the past week or so, leaving a large expanse of mud, on which were gathered some amazing flocks of waders: hundreds and hundreds of Ruff and Dunlin were gathered, together with large numbers of Curlew Sandpiper and Little Stint and smaller numbers of Ringed Plover and Black-tailed Godwit and a single Red-necked Phalarope. A couple of times, the entire group of waders was put in flight by a hunting Hobby.

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Amongst the Black-headed and Caspian Gulls were a handful of Little Gulls swimming on the water and single adults each of Great Black-headed and Heuglin's Gull, the latter the large Lesser Black-backed Gull from northern Russia, while one massive Caspian Tern came over.

### **Day Five: 20<sup>th</sup> May. Sacalinu Island and Sfintu Gheorghe**

With heavy rain yet again predicted for the day, we took a morning walk through the village and then out across the marshes and dunes to the Black Sea.

Bird wise, the morning was fairly quiet. A Black Redstart was singing in the village, and there were the now-usual assortment of shrikes, herons, stilts and Lapwing on the marsh. On the sandy beach, a group of large gulls had gathered to feed on a dead Porpoise, while large numbers of Cormorants were feeding out to sea.

At the back of the beach, a search amongst the bushes finally revealed a handful of small, sandy-grey lizards, the Steppe Runner, a local speciality that just sneaks in to Europe on the sandy parts of the Danube Delta and around the north of the Black Sea, being otherwise an animal of western and central Asia. A male Sand Lizard and a young Grass Snake were also seen. Back at the boats, we passed a pair of Dalmatian Pelicans in lovely breeding colours as they rested on a log.

The afternoon excursion was out to Sacalinu Island, travelling out across the shallow lagoon in the small boats with a short, slightly muddy disembarkation on the island itself. Along the channel we enjoyed good views of a pair of Hobby in a riverside tree, while as we arrived on the island a couple of Bearded Tits flew across the water and a Bittern was booming in the reeds.

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 found a few Little Ringed Plovers, with the tracks of Golden Jackal across the sand and into the reeds.

Over the sea, a pair of Slender-billed Gulls flew north while later on two Sandwich Terns flew south. In the reeds behind the beach, Savi's, Reed and Great Reed Warbler were all singing. More exciting was first one then another Paddyfield Warbler, heard singing their varied song, with lots of mimicry. Eventually one was seen well as he climbed to the tops of the reeds, showing its rich rusty brown back and tail, and the contrasting head pattern. Less showy was a male Moustached Warbler singing nearby, but always keeping low in the vegetation.

Back on the boats, we travelled along a different channel out onto the marsh itself, with Great White Egrets and Mute Swans both silhouetted in the evening light and reflected across the shallow water: a wonderfully atmospheric way to end the day. And that rain still hasn't arrived.

### **Day Six: 21<sup>st</sup> May. Sfintu Gheorghe to Dunavat. Lake Erenciuc.**

Spoke too soon... just after breakfast, the skies opened and the proverbial cats and dogs were added to the trip mammal list, albeit only a short-lived appearance.

After breakfast we set off travelling back up the main channel. A handful of Great Black-headed Gulls were around during the journey, along with plenty of the other 'usual' delta birds; an adult White-tailed Eagle was sat in a riverside tree, while another (or maybe the same) adult was seen circling over the massive reedbeds, being harassed by a Marsh Harrier; Bearded Tits were heard a few times from the reeds, as well as a calling Water Rail, but none posed for us.

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Just before lunch we took the small boats out to explore Lake Erenciuc. An adult Dalmatian Pelican and breeding colonies of both Whiskered and Black Terns were found amongst the lily pads. As the weather improved, there was obviously a big hatching of damselflies, as good numbers of insect eating birds began to be seen, hawking high up above us: Black-headed Gull, Whiskered Terns and the usual hirundines were joined by plenty of Bee-eaters during the afternoon, as well as Rollers, Hobby and Red-footed Falcons.

We finally moored along a smaller side channel, amongst some nice wet woodland: with the engines cut, we were serenaded by Nightingales and Golden Orioles, with a constant background chorus of Fire-bellied Toads, a booming Bittern and the mournful calls of a pair of Grey-headed Woodpeckers. Night Herons were heading out for the evening, while a constant stream of Glossy Ibis flew the other way, heading to their roost for the night.

### **Day Seven: 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Dranov, Perisor beach and shallow lakes around Holbina**

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 both Hobby and Red-footed Falcons, as well as all the 'old favourites': Bee-eater, Roller, Glossy Ibis, Great White Egret, Night Heron and Squacco Heron.

At the coast, the shell beach was pretty desolate, with a group of gulls feeding on a dead Porpoise: at the back of the beach, we found several Sand Lizards, although they proved very hard to get a good look at! Occupying the site of a now-disused fish farm was a very large White Stork nest, surprisingly devoid of sparrows! Bee-eaters and a couple of Hoopoe fed around the buildings; in the reeds at least two Paddyfield Warblers were singing, with a Marsh Warbler hidden in the nearby bushes and a Little Bittern flying past.

After lunch, we took a detour down a side channel, which allowed us to get up close to a large breeding colony of Cormorants. A Grey-headed Woodpecker flew across the channel, a couple of Purple Herons flew up and some large European Pond Terrapins swam out of the way of the boat.

Our journey 'home' took us around the western side of Lake Dranov and through some small lakes in the Holbina area. The now-usual mixture of Ferruginous Duck, Marsh Harrier and two species of pelicans were all present, as well as a young family of Great Crested Grebe, while enormous numbers of Four-spotted Chaser dragonflies were feeding over the reeds: other dragonflies during the day included Emperor, Lesser Emperor, Green-eyed Hawker and Banded Demoiselle. Two White-tailed Eagles (an adult and a younger bird) flew overhead, while on the final homeward stretch, a couple of Golden Orioles (finally!) flew across the river in front of us.

### **Day Eight: 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Taranova & Gorgostel. Dunavat to Uzlina.**

Our final trip out in the small boats was along the willow-lined Perivolovca Channel to the small lakes of Taranova and Gorgostel. Taranova Lake was surprisingly empty, with a single Dalmatian Pelican and a handful of Pochard, Great Crested Grebe and Coot. Lake Gorgostel was a little busier, with a pair of Red-necked Grebes amongst the Great Crested, a large flock of Mute Swans and a busy Black Tern colony amongst the lily pads at the far end. Amongst these we picked out the usual handful of Whiskered Terns but also a single first-summer White-winged Black Tern, looking a little bit lost. Back along the channel a couple of Golden Oriole flew over, a Musk Rat swam in front of us and a small party of stripy Wild Boar piglets ran along the bank. And all without a drop of rain... Lunch was, of course, Catfish!

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During the afternoon we had one final dose of riverbank-watching (we won't know what to do once we get home, and there aren't Night Herons around every bend or Roller on every tree...), as we headed back upstream to Uzlina, for our last evening on the boat.

### **Day Nine: 24<sup>th</sup> May. Uzlina to Amara, via Nufaru and Macin.**

All of a sudden, our last full day in Romania.

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our fantastic hosts on the houseboat Kingfisher and took the speedboat back to Murighiol, stopping to pay our respects to the family of four young Long-eared Owls, now looking very grown up!

Our journey across to Amara took us via a photogenic Bee-eater colony at Nufaru, to our lunchtime stop in the Macin Mountains National Park. Just outside the not-overly-lovely town of Macin, these weren't the most immediately impressive range of hills: dry grassland, a large quarry or two. I wouldn't be entirely truthful if I said I had high hopes, but a nice place for a leg-stretch at least...

Two hours later, and I would have to say Macin Mountains is a brilliant place. A couple of soaring Long-legged Buzzards, the usual background noise of Bee-eaters and Corn Buntings, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes... a nice start. A pair of Woodlark, definitely nice to see... "Raptor!", another Long-legged Buzzard.

For some reason, I raised my binoculars to the passing flock of starlings, and they all have pale bodies: "Rose-coloured Starlings!". The disappeared into the distant quarry, presumably breeding amongst the rubble piles. A very nice surprise! Things are feeling more promising...

"Raptor!", yes, another Long-legged Buzzard. Then "Raptor!", and a circling Honey Buzzard. Nice to see a bit of variety after rather a glut of Marsh Harriers over the past week.

Next was a gorgeous male Honey Buzzard who started his wonderful butterfly wing-clapping display over our heads! Oh, and behind him, a little male Levant Sparrowhawk, all of ten minutes after I'd told Diana that her chances of seeing Levant Sparrowhawk were pretty much nil at this stage in the spring. Then a pair of Black Storks, together with another Honey Buzzard. Soon to be followed by a Common Buzzard, another Honey Buzzard and around 60 White Storks in a drifting flock, following the ridge.

While looking up at the ridge, a display-fighting wheatear zipped across my scope view. Alas, just a male Northern Wheatear. But let's have a quick check of the other rocks at the top of the ridge... a male Pied Wheatear! Very nice, thank you very much, quick, have a look through the scope... oh, he's gone. But there's another bird on the next rock along. Blue head, red belly: male Rock Thrush! A very unexpected bonus, another bird right on the edge of its breeding range.

Several Balkan Wall Lizards were skitting about, then a young Eastern Green Lizard (the plain-backed one) and, on almost the next rock, a young Balkan Green Lizard (the stripey one), making easy comparison. Cardinal and Queen of Spain feeding on the salts along the stream edge, then a fresh Marbled Fritillary.

We can't stay out here all day, there's still a long way to go... back to the bus, sorry!

Down on the flat grassland, first one, then two Isabelline Wheatear on the rocks, where they

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should be. And a Tawny Pipit. A quick drink before we head off...

"Raptor!", a Long-legged Buzzard, carrying a big lizard. Turn, around, "Raptor!", another Long-legged Buzzard, this time carrying a struggling Sousek! And behind, a Black Kite, circling along the ridge. And above it, is that another buzzard? Surely too big... as if to wish us on our way, a young Eastern Imperial Eagle drifted in from the right, circled over head, then carried on along the ridge.

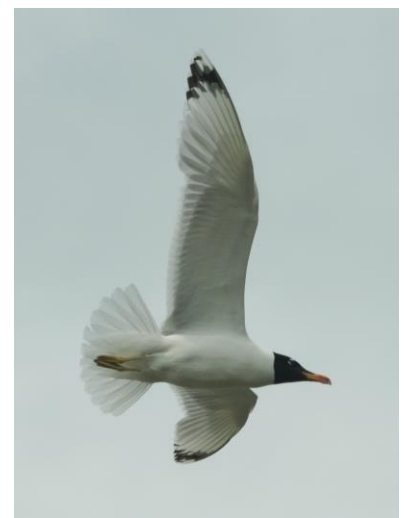
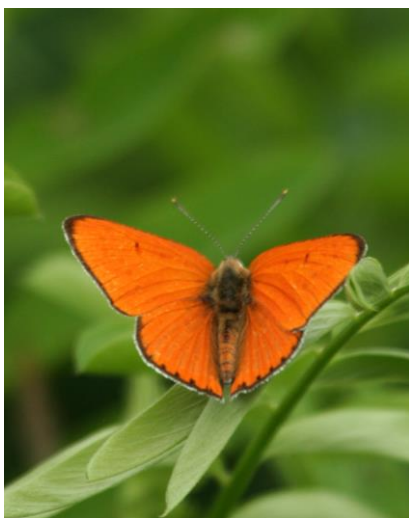
Yep, Macin Mountains, definitely a brilliant place...

### **Day Ten: 25<sup>th</sup> May. Amara to Bucharest. Village Museum and home.**

After a very rainy night, we had a leisurely start from Amara, back to Bucharest. A couple of hours spent wandering around the traditional buildings of the Village Museum, taking in everything from mud hut hobbit houses to magnificent wooden churches, plus a family of Redstarts and a hungry chicken, and then it was time for the airport. And home. And apart from the very first day, arriving at Amara, we didn't get rained on once.



## DANUBE DELTA 2012: some highlights



Top: Paddyfield Warbler

First row, l to r: Squacco Heron and Dalmatian Pelicans

second row, l to r: Large Copper, Steppe Runner and Great Black-headed Gull

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<b>Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>											
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		X								
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		X								
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X	
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>								X		
<b>Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)</b>											
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)</b>											
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	
<b>Family Ardeidae (Hérons)</b>											
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>					H	H	H			
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		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	
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>		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
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>		X	X		X	X	X	X		
<b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>											
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>									X	
<b>Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</b>											
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>		X		X			X			
<b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)</b>											
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					
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X		
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>		X								
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		X	X	X	X		X	X		
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>		X	X	X		X	X	X		
<b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)</b>											
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			X	X		X	X	X		
Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>									X	
Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>									X	
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>		X							X	
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>									X	
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>									X	
Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>									X	
<b>Family Falconidae (Falcons)</b>											
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	X	X			X	X	X			
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)</b>											
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)</b>											
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>						H				

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Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		X	X			X	X	X		
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		X	X					X	X	
<b>Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)</b>											
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X		X	X					
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		X		X	X				X	
<b>Family Haematopidae (Oystercatchers)</b>											
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>					X					
<b>Family Burhinidae (Stone Curlews)</b>											
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>										
<b>Family Charadriidae (Plovers)</b>											
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		X			X					
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticulus</i>		X		X						
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		X			X					
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		X		X	X			X	X	X
<b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)</b>											
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>				X						
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				X						
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		X		X	X					
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		X		X						
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		X		X						
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				X						
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>				X						
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>		X		X						
<b>Family Laridae (Gulls)</b>											
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Larus genei</i>					X					
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>		X	X							
Great Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>			X	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					
Heuglin's Gull	<i>Larus (fuscus) heuglini</i>				X						
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>				X						
<b>Family Sternidae (Terns)</b>											
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>					X					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>				X						
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		X	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	
<b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>											
Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>						X				
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>			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			
<b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>											
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Strigidae (Owls)</b>											
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		X					X		X	
<b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>											
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)</b>											
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X	H	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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<b>Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)</b>											
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X		
<b>Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)</b>											
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	H	X	X	X	X		X	
<b>Family Coraciidae (Rollers)</b>											
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)</b>											
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>						H				
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			X			X	X	H	H	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			X	X		H	X			
<b>Family Alaudidae (Larks)</b>											
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		H								
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>									X	X
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>									X	
<b>Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)</b>											
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X	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		X	X
<b>Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)</b>											
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>									X	
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					
<b>Family Turdidae (Thrushes and Chats)</b>											
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		X	X	X		X		X		X
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				X	X					
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X							X	
Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>									X	
Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>									X	
Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>									X	
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>				X		X	H			
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		X	X	X					X	X
<b>Family Sylviidae (Warblers)</b>											
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>							X	H		
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	X	X	X	X	H	H		X
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		X			X					
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>							X			
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		X		X						
Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>					X					
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>					X		X			
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			X	X	H	X	X	H		
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>							X			
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		X	H	X	X	X	X	H	H	
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>		H	H	H	H	H	H	H		
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H								
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>					X					
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				H		H	H	H		
<b>Family Muscipidae (Flycatchers)</b>											
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						X	X			
<b>Family Paridae ( Tits)</b>											
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Panuridae (Bearded Tit)</b>											

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Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>			X		X	X	H			
<b>Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)</b>											
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			X				H	H		
<b>Family Certhiidae (Trecreepers)</b>											
Trecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			X				X			
<b>Family Laniidae (Shrikes)</b>											
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>		X		X	X	X			X	
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>		X		X	X				X	
<b>Family Corvidae (Crows)</b>											
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>		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
<b>Family Sturnidae (Starlings)</b>											
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Sturnus roseus</i>									X	
<b>Family Oriolidae (Orioles)</b>											
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		H	H	H		H	X	X	H	
<b>Family Passeridae (Sparrows)</b>											
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		X	X	X	X	X			X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		X							X	
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Family Fringillidae (Finches)</b>											
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			X			X				
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>									X	
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>			X			X				
<b>Family Emberizidae (Buntings)</b>											
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>		X							X	
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>		X		X			X		X	

<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>		
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>	Heard on Sacalin and at Dunavat
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	One dead adult at the Village Museum
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	Common throughout the Delta
<b>REPTILES</b>		
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	One juvenile at Babadag
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Several seen, eg near Dranov
Steppe Runner	<i>Eremias arguta</i>	At the back of the beach, Sfintu Gheorghe
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>	The plain juvenile, Macin
Balkan Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta trilineata</i>	The big lizard, Babadag. Stripy juveniles at Macin
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	On the beach at Sfintu Gheorghe & Perisor
Common Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis muralis</i>	One on the beach, Perisor
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>	The medium sized lizard with a green stripe down the back, Babadag & Macin
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>	The tiny lizard, Babadag
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	Seen on several occasions in the Delta
<b>MAMMALS</b>		
Eastern Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus roumanicus</i>	Several dead on the road, Delta to Amara
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	Several stripy piglets, 23 <sup>rd</sup>

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Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	One in a roadside field, 16 <sup>th</sup>
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	One ran in front of us, Macin
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>	One being carried by a Long-legged Buzzard, Macin: common on the edge of the runway, Bucharest airport!
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Singles: 18 <sup>th</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup>

### BUTTERFLIES

Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Babadag
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>	Babadag
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Babadag
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i>	Macin
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Babadag
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	Uzlina
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	Macin
Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>	Around the Willows, eg Dunavat
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	Uzlina. Common at Macin
Marbled Fritillary	<i>Brenthis daphne</i>	One at Macin
Queen of Spain	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	One at Macin
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Sfintu Gheorghe
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	Sfintu Gheorghe

### ODONATA

Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	
Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>	
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	
Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>	
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	
Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>	Babadag and Macin

## Selected Plant Species

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
<b>FERNS</b>			
	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern	Common in the reedbeds, Delta
	<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water Fern	In ditches near Sfantu Gheorghe. Introduced
	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	European Water Clover	In ditches near Sfantu Gheorghe
<b>Aceraceae</b>			
	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	Elder-like leaves, growing along rivers, delta
<b>Alismataceae</b>			
	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain	Delta
	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	Arrowhead	Delta
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>			
	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush	Low-growing, round-leaved shrub, Babadag
<b>Apiaceae</b>			
	<i>Sium latifolium</i>	Greater Water Parsnip	Common umbellifer in the reedbeds, delta
	<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
<b>Betulaceae</b>			
	<i>Alnus gultinosa</i>	Common Alder	Common riverside tree in the drier parts of the delta
<b>Brassicaceae</b>			
	<i>Sisymbrium sophia</i>	Flixweed	Eg along the walk to Dranov Lake
	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	On the beach at Perisor

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
<b>Butomaceae</b>		
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush	Tall rush with pink flowers, delta
<b>Ceratophyllaceae</b>		
<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid Hornwort	Delta
<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>	Soft Hornwort	Delta
<b>Corylaceae</b>		
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam	Babadag Forest
<b>Fabaceae</b>		
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	Riverside shrub, introduced from North America
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak	The hairy-leaved oak in the Babadag Forest.
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill	Babadag
<b>Haloragaceae</b>		
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Spiked Water Milfoil	Delta
<b>Hydrocharitaceae</b>		
<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
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Common in the delta
<b>Juglandaceae</b>		
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	A very common village tree
<b>Lamiaceae</b>		
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Roadside, Amara: yellow flowers
<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>		Babadag: pale flowers
<i>Lycopus europeus</i>	Gypsywort	Delta
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Delta
<i>Stachys recta</i>		The white Stachys, Babadag
<i>Salvia nutans</i>	Nodding Sage	Babadag
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Common roadside sage
<b>Lemnaceae</b>		
<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
<b>Linaceae</b>		
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	Pale blue flax
<b>Menyanthaceae</b>		
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Fringed Water Lily	Delta: the small lily pads
<b>Moraceae</b>		
<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	Another common village tree
<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>		
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water Lily	Delta
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water Lily	Delta
<b>Oleaceae</b>		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash	
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Babadag: very tall, in shade, gone over
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Babadag: medium sized, in full sun, gone over
<i>Orchis tridentata</i>	Toothed Orchid	Babadag: small, pale, gone over
<i>Orchis palustris</i>		The tall purple 'marsh' orchid, Sfantu Gheorghe
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Babadag, just one plant
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>		
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>		The wild peony, flowers gone over, Babadag

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	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
	<b>Poaceae</b>		
	<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
	<b>Polygalaceae</b>		
	<i>Polygala major</i>	Large Milkwort	Babadag
	<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock	The giant dock in the delta
	<b>Potamogetonaceae</b>		
	<i>Potamogeton pectinatis</i>	Fennel-leaved Pondweed	Long fine-leaved pondweed, delta
	<i>Potamogeton pusillus</i>	Small Pondweed	eg behind Sacalin Island
	<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
	<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
	<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
	<b>Salicaceae</b>		
	<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
	<b>Solanaceae</b>		
	<i>Petunia parviflora</i>	Small-flowered Petunia	On the beach, Sahalin Island.
	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Purple flowers, growing in reed beds, delta
	<b>Sparganiaceae</b>		
	<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed	Delta
	<i>Sparganium emersum</i>	Floating Bur-reed	Delta
	<b>Tamaricaceae</b>		
	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk	The pinky shrub on sandier places in the delta
	<b>Tiliaceae</b>		
	<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime	Common roadside tree
	<b>Trapaceae</b>		
	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water Chestnut	Floating rosettes and spiny 'nut', delta
	<b>Typhaceae</b>		
	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Bulrush	Common in the delta
	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	Common in the delta
	<b>Viscaceae</b>		
	<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Common on willows