

Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 8th to 16th May 2016

WILDLIFE TRAVEL



Romania 2016

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#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	8 th May	Arrival at Bucharest. o/n Motel Diamant, Amara
2	9 th 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	10 th May	Uzlina to Sfintu Gheorghe, by tug.
4	11 th May	Sacalin Island and Sfintu Gheorghe.
5	12 th May	Lake Erenciuc. By tug to Dunavat.
6	13 th May	Perivolovca Channel, Lake Taranova, Lake Gorgostel. Dunavat to Uzlina.
7	14 th May	Dranov Channel, Perisor, Holbina.
8	15 th May	Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac
9	16 th May	Uzlina to Murighiol. Drive back to Bucharest, via Nufaru and Saraiu Lake, and home

LIST OF TRAVELLERS

Leader

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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>

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Day One: 8th May. Arrival in Bucharest and transfer to Amara

After a very straightforward flight from Heathrow for some, and a drive down from the Carpathians 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. One or two roadside birds were seen along the way, including our first Red-footed Falcons and Red-backed Shrikes.

After dinner, some of us ventured out in the darkness behind the hotel, where we could hear Green Toads reeling from the nearby fields, before heading to bed.

Day Two: 9th May. Travel to the Delta

The day started with a slightly damp pre-breakfast wander around the fishing lakes opposite the hotel, where highlights included good looks at the very loud Great Reed Warblers chuntering from the reeds, a male Little Bittern who flew past several times, a showy Cuckoo posing at the top of a tree and a handful of Ferruginous Ducks. A male Red-footed Falcon gave us a fly-by, and a couple of Black-necked Grebes were on the lake in the distance.

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 shore at Lake Saraiu. Great Crested Grebe and Coot were both plentiful out on the lake, fly-pasts included Glossy Ibis, Great White Egret, Little Egret and Purple Heron, with thousands of hirundines hawking over the water along with smaller numbers of Whiskered Terns. From the nearby woodland we could hear Golden Oriole, Blackcap and Thrush Nightingale all singing loudly, with a small party of Bee-eaters briefly in the treetops.

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 including Smoke Bush and Lilac. The wild flowers here were at their peak, and kept us all entertained. Orchids are always a particular favourite, and we found several different species: the tall spikes of Lady Orchid in the dappled shade, a little patch of the smaller, paler Monkey Orchid, and several spikes of the more familiar Green-winged Orchid were all out in the grassy clearings. In the shade of the trees, we found the creamy White Helleborine, a couple of spikes of Greater Butterfly Orchid and several patches of Violet Birds-nest Orchid parasitizing the trees.

Also growing in the shade of the White Oak we eventually found some wonderful wild peonies *Paeonia peregrina* in full flower, growing alongside the blue flowered, upright *Clematis integrifolia*, and *Vinca herbacea*.

The grassy areas included a good proportion of the Stipa steppe grasses: wild flowers included abundant Nodding Sage *Salvia nutans*, the large white *Salvia austriaca*, beautiful spikes of the deep purple mullein *Verbascum phoeniceum*, the pale blue speedwell *Veronica austriaca*, spikes of blue and pink *Polygala major*, and three species of Ajuga: Blue Bugle *Ajuga genevensis*, 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 pair of Hawfinch also flew over, pausing briefly to tick in the tree tops, and a pale-phase Booted Eagle soared overhead. Glanville Fritillaries flitted about in the sunnier spots, and amongst the undergrowth we found a good variety of reptiles: Eastern Green Lizard were particularly abundant, along with several tiny Snake-eyed Skinks skittering through the leaf litter, the pretty Balkan Wall Lizard with its green stripe down the back, and an adult Spur-thighed Tortoise.

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. A male Northern Wheatear was on the nearby diggings, another Booted Eagle circled above us and a couple of endearing little Souseliks put in an appearance, their high-pitched whistling calls heard occasionally.

A roadside wetland near Sarinasuf was home to our first Avocets of the trip, a single Shelduck, a flock of Curlew Sandpipers in their brick-red summer finery, and a little group of Little Stints. Onwards, our next stop was Lake Saraturii, near the village of Popol, 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 re-met George and were ferried off to our boat, the Kingfisher, passing through a mixed feeding group of Black and White-winged Black Terns on the way.

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Dinner for our first night on the boat was delicious Danube Shad, fresh from the barbeque, with a backing track of Marsh Frogs croaking and Fire-bellied Toads moaning.

Day Three: 10th May. Uzlina to Sfintu Gheorghe

We started the morning to the sounds of Thrush Nightingale singing in the bankside bushes, and the rather morose whistling of a Grey-headed Woodpecker who appeared on the bank. A Squacco Heron showed well as it stalked through the vegetation, finding plenty to eat, while a large tree further downstream held an impressive four immature White-tailed Eagles.

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

White-tailed Eagles were with us much of the morning, sharing the thermals with several good sized flocks of White Pelicans, with their strongly contrasting black and white wing pattern helping to differentiate them from the rarer Dalmatian Pelicans. Several colonies of Bee-eater were found along the sandy banks, with the colourful birds fly-catching alongside the boat; equally colourful were our first Kingfishers and Rollers, and Lesser Grey Shrikes joined in the insect-catching feast. Red-footed Falcon and Hobby were hawking for damselflies over the marshes, with Marsh Harrier becoming more frequent as we got closer to the coast and the wet woodland gave way to some amazingly extensive reedbeds. Golden Oriole, Cuckoo, Great Reed and Reed Warblers could be heard singing most of the morning.

After a lunch of tasty Danubian Carp, Wels Catfish and Zander 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!).

Fully rested, we took an afternoon walk through the village and then out across the marshes and dunes to the Black Sea.

Beyond the village, we walked through the sandy marshland, where we found a tiny baby Grass Snake and a group of Blue-headed Wagtails, migrating through on their way further north. A pair of Avocets fed in the shallows, and a small party of Little Stints flew in to feed. As we got through to the dunes, Lesser Grey Shrikes were hunting from the top of the bushes.

At the back of the beach, a search amongst the bushes revealed a couple of 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.

Further along the beach we passed a dead juvenile Black Sea Porpoise, while large numbers of Cormorants were flying back from their day's fishing out to sea. Just as we met up with George and Lucien and the boats that were to ferry us back to the Kingfisher, we finally saw a single 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 his breeding colours.

Back to the boat for some slow roasted lamb, all the way from Murighiol.

Day Four: 11th May. Sacalinu Island and Sfintu Gheorghe

This morning we took the small boats out along the Turceasca Channel to Sacalinu Island. Along the channel we enjoyed good views of the abundant Night Herons, disturbed from their daytime roosts. Several Cuckoos posed in the tree tops, as did a pair of Hobby in a riverside tree, while Savi's Warblers reeled and a Bittern was booming distantly in the reeds.

Travelling out across the shallow lagoon, we found large numbers of Great White Egret alongside the more familiar Grey Heron and Little Egret. We also found large flocks of White Pelicans, fishing in the shallows and roosting out on the spit. A slightly muddy disembarkation brought us on to the island itself, where the views of the pelicans only got better. A roosting flock of terns was mostly Sandwich and Common Terns, along with a single hulking Caspian Tern and a couple of dainty fly-by Little Terns.

Walking across to the seaward side of the island, Oystercatcher and Turnstone were found on the beach, a trio of Greenshanks flew over inland and another adult Great Black-headed Gull flew past before our attention turned to the reeds just behind the beach. Here first one then another Paddyfield Warbler were heard singing their varied song,

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with lots of mimicry. Eventually they both climbed to the tops of the reeds, giving good views out in the open showing their rich rusty brown back and tail, and the contrasting head pattern. This is another speciality of the Delta, sharing a similar range to the Great Black-headed Gull and only reaching into Europe in these sandy reedbeds along the northern Black Sea coast.

Heading back to the boats, along the back of the shore we found the white-flowered *Tournefortia sibirica* while in the shallows we had to watch out for the spiny fruits of Water Chestnut *Trapa natans* and a young Slender-billed Gull flew past.

Back on the boats, we travelled back across the lagoon, enjoying one final close-up encounter with a fishing flotilla of White Pelicans, back return along the channel to the Kingfisher, and a lunch of fish rissoles, made of Pike, Bream and three different species of Carp!

In the afternoon, after our now-customary nap 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 turning off through the village and returning to the boat.

Out on the marshes, a handful of Gadwall and Ferruginous Ducks were feeding, with the occasional Black-winged Stilt, while plenty of noisy Common Terns flew about overhead. The water levels on the lagoon were rather high, only leaving a few areas of mud where waders could feed: here we found Spotted Redshank and Curlew Sandpipers, all in their bright breeding plumage.

Along the dyke banks, a group of Blue-headed Wagtails were feeding around the grazing cattle, while Bee-eaters fed overhead and a Lesser Grey Shrike hunted from the hedgerow.

In the shallow water at the edge of the marsh, we finally had a good close-up look at the Fire-bellied Toads, which were very easy to find here as they floated at the surface and allowed themselves to be caught, enabling us to admire their firey bellies.

Day Five: 12th 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 an adult White-tailed Eagle.

Just before lunch we took the small boats out to explore Lake Erenciuc. Some sailing Dalmatian Pelicans and breeding colonies of both Whiskered and Black Terns were found amongst the lily pads, as well as a posing Night Heron and several Great Crested Grebes.

After an uneventful afternoon journey northwards, we finally moored up at Dunavat, where the wet woodland resounded to the mournful calls Grey-headed Woodpeckers, as well as the ever-present chorus of Marsh Frogs and Fire-bellied Toads. During the night, a booming Bittern called from the nearby reedbeds to add to the noise levels.

Day Six: 13th May. Taranova & Gorgostel. Dunavat to Uzlina.

Yesterday's weather forecast inspired a change of plans for today. Our morning trip out in the small boats was along the willow-lined Perivolovca Channel to the small lakes of Taranova and Gorgostel. Taranova Lake was home to some stately Dalmatian Pelicans, along with the 'usual' Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Great Crested Grebe and Coot. Lake Gorgostel was a little busier, with a pair of handsome Red-necked Grebes amongst the Great Crested in amongst the floating vegetation, which was also home to some nesting Whiskered Terns. A couple of Squacco Herons posed for longer than normal at the water's edge. More of a surprise here were a handful of Goldeneye, including one female with a clutch of ducklings. This is a relatively recent addition to the Danube's breeding ducks, more normally associated with boreal forests of Scandinavia and Russia.

After lunch, exactly on cue, the rains arrived, and we continued making our way back upstream to Uzlina to moor for the night.

Day Seven: 14th May. Dranov, Holbina and Perisor beach

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 stopped a couple of times to look out over the marshes to the north, where as well as a leg stretch we found resting pelicans, plenty of Glossy Ibis, a small group of White Storks and all the usual herons and egrets, with Hobby ever-present in the skies above us. A sand bank was home to a large colony of both Sand Martins and Bee-eaters. A flock of White-winged Black Terns dropped in for a moment.

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Our lunch spot, overlooking an expansive grazing marsh, gave us the chance to compare Wood Sandpiper, Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper side-by-side, although most of the many waders were just that bit too far away...

As we turned down the Perisor channel, Roller were increasingly frequent, sitting in the bankside willows, and we started to see Spotted Flycatchers, hawking out from the willows in ever-increasing numbers. A single Freyer's Purple Emperor flew across the channel above us, and several Hairy Dragonflies put in appearances. A short detour down a side channel allowed us to get up close to the margins of a large breeding colony of Cormorants. A couple of Purple Herons flew up and a large European Pond Terrapin was hauled out on a log.

At the coast, the shell beach was home to a small number of sun-bathing Romanians and not a lot else. Exploring the dry grassland at the back of the beach, a couple of Sand Lizards put in brief appearances, while a Barred Warbler was even more fleeting as it disappeared into a tangle of Wild Asparagus, never to be seen again. Occupying the roof of a now-disused fish farm was a very large White Stork nest, complete with bill-clacking storks but surprisingly devoid of sparrows! In the reeds at least four Paddyfield Warblers were in full voice, with one bird tempted out into the open by George's phone.

Our journey home took us back the same way, albeit this time at a quicker pace.

Day Eight: 15th May. Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac

This morning, we headed out in the little boats again, but for a more local excursion this time, into the shallow lakes and reedy waterways to the north: lakes Isac, Isacel and Pojarnia.

Through the flooded willow woodland, Little Egrets and Night Herons flew up in front of the boats, while an adult White-tailed Eagle soared overhead.

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.

Yesterday's good weather had brought more dragonflies out, with Lesser Emperor hawking along the reed edges and Red-eyed Damselflies common amongst the lily pads.

Large groups of Coot were feeding in some of the lakes, alongside Great Crested Grebe, Mallard, Pochard and Ferruginous Duck. Both species of cormorant and both species of pelican soared around, looking for fish-rich hunting grounds. But the stars of the first lake were several pairs of Black-necked Grebes, showing very well at the edge of the lily pads, with their fiery eyes catching the light.

Heading around the lake edge, the high-pitched call of a Penduline Tit was heard, and we finally got good views of at least two males during the morning, one of whom perched up in the open on a reed head, singing.

After lunch, we headed back out in the sunshine to the same general area, where a mass emergence of damselflies had obviously taken place: the air was full of birds, snacking on the insects high up, with hundreds of Whiskered and Black Terns, Starlings, Black-headed Gulls a-plenty, a Roller and a first-year Little Gull joining in the feast.

The rest of the afternoon was made up of the now-familiar 'usual suspects': cormorants and pelicans, herons and egrets, Mute Swans and Great Crested Grebes, Pochard and Ferruginous Duck, a fly-by White-tailed Eagle and a single Red-necked Grebe.

High up a single Honey Buzzard passed over, while this afternoon virtually every isolated willow bush seemed to be home to a 'tsee'ing Penduline Tit...

This evening's dinner was another addition to our 'eaten species' list: a delicious stuffed Pike.

Day Nine: 16th May. Uzlina to Bucharest, via Nufaru and Saraiu.

All of a sudden, our last day in Romania.

After breakfast, we bid farewell to our fantastic team on the houseboat Kingfisher, and to Anthea who would be making her way on to Constanta, and took the speedboat back to Murighiol, a young White-tailed Eagle flying low overhead as if to wish us *bon voyage*.

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Back on board the bus, with our chatty bus driver, and we set off Bucharest-wards... A brief stop at a roadside cliff-face showed us a once busy Bee-eater colony now taken over by Starlings and Jackdaws, as well as a pair of Roller, the Bee-eaters now busy excavating new holes further along.

Our lunch break was back on the shores of Saraiu Lake, where Great Reed Warblers chuntered at us and Great Crested Grebes continued their dancing displays out on the water.

Overhead, surprises came in the form of a pair of Ruddy Shelduck who flew off strongly into the distance, and a Black Stork who passed northwards while we ate our sandwiches. Yet another Penduline Tit tsee-ed in the distance, while the fluting of Golden Orioles drew our attention to the nearby treetops, where we finally tracked down the glowing yellow of the 'Big Boss', with not one but two bright males visible in the treetops. A fitting finale to our visit...

The traffic around the Bucharest ring-road did its best to confound us, but we finally made it back to the airport, and our problem-free flight home.

DANUBE DELTA 2016: some highlights



Top: The Kingfisher, moored at Uzlina.
First row, l to r: Dalmatian Pelican and Night Heron
second row, l to r: Glanville Fritillary, Penduline Tit and Lady Orchid

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ENGLISH NAME	LATIN NAME	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th
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	X	X
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		X		X		X	X		
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>									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	X
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>						X			
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>						X			
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)										
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	X	X	X			H			
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	X								
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)										
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		H				X			
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		X						X	
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>		X			X	X		X	X
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>						X		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	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)										
Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>				H	H	H			
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	X	X							
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		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	X	X
Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)										
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			X			X			X
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)										
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	X	X	X				X		X
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>									X
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)										
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>			X	X	X	X		X	X
Booted Eagle	<i>Aquila pennatus</i>		X							
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>									X
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>								X	
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>							X		
Family Falconidae (Falcons)										
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	X	X	X					X	X
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	X	X	X	X			X	X	X
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)										
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	X		X			X		X	X
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)										
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>		X	X						
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>		X		X			X		
Family Charadriidae (Plovers)										
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>			X						
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				X					
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	X	X	X	X	X		X		
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)										
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		X							
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>		X		X			X		
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>		X	X						
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>							X		
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				X					
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				X					
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>			X	X					
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>							X		
Family Laridae (Gulls)										
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Slender-billed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>				X					
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>		X					X		
Great Black-headed Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>			X	X					
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>		X	X					X	
Family Sternidae (Terns)										
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				X					
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasse sandvicensis</i>			X	X					
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		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				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	X	X	X	X	X	X
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	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	X
Family Strigidae (Owls)										
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>		H							
Family Apodidae (Swifts)										
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	X	X	X						
Family Upupidae (Hoopes)										
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		X				X	X		X
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)										
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>		X	X			X	X	X	X
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)										
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)										
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	X

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Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)										
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>							X		
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			X	X	H		X	X	X
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>			X						
Family Alaudidae (Larks)										
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>									H
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>									X
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows and Martins)										
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		X	X	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	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
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla (flava) flava</i>			X	X					
Family Turdidae (Thrushes)										
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	X	X	X						
Family Muscicapidae (Flycatchers and Chats)										
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H		X					
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>		H	H			H	H	H	H
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>			X		H	H	H	H	
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		X							
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>		X							
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Family Sylviidae (Scrub Warblers)										
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>			H	H	H				H
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>							X		
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>		H	X	H	H	X	X	H	H
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>		X	X	X	H	X	X	H	H
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>									X
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers)										
Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>				X			X		
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>		X	X	X	H	X	X	X	X
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	X	X	X	H	H	X	H	X	X
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna elaeica</i>							H	H	H
Family Locustellidae (Grasshopper Warblers)										
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			H	H	H	H		H	
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)										
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	X	X	H	H	H	H	H
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			X	X					
Family Paridae (Tits)										
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>		X	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				
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)										
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				H		H		X	H
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)										
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>			X	X	X				

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Family Corvidae (Crows)										
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	X	X	X	X					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
Family Oriolidae (Orioles)										
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	H	H	H	X	H	X	H	H	X
Family Passeridae (Sparrows)										
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>		X							
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		X	X	X					X
Family Fringillidae (Finches)										
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		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

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AMPHIBIANS		
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>	Heard at Uzlina and Sacalin, and seen around Sfintu Gheorghe
Green Toad	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Heard 'reeling' at Amara
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i>	Abundant throughout the Delta
REPTILES		
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>	One adult at Babadag
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	Several seen, eg at Perisor
Steppe Runner	<i>Eremias arguta</i>	At the back of the beach, Sfintu Gheorghe
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>	Babadag
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	In the sandy grassland behind the beach at Perisor
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>	The medium sized lizard with a green stripe down the back, Babadag
Snake-eyed Skink	<i>Ablepharus kitaibelii</i>	The tiny lizard in the leaf litter, Babadag
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	A tiny juvenile at Sfintu Gheorghe. Adult swimming at Perivolovca Channel.
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>	One swimming near the cormorant colony at Perisor
MAMMALS		
Black Sea Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena relicta</i>	Dead juvenile on the beach, Sfintu Gheorghe
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	One at the roadside on the way to the delta.
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Footprints in the sand on Sacalin Island
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Sprint: Sfintu Gheorghe
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	Droppings on the beach, Sfintu Gheorghe
European Souslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>	At least 3 seen at Enisala
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	One by the boat, 10 th
BUTTERFLIES		
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Babadag
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	Babadag
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	Babadag
Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>	One flew across the channel, near Dranov
Glanville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	Babadag
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Sfintu Gheorghe; Perisor
ODONATA		
Banded Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	Dunavat; Dranov
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	Sfintu Gheorghe
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Common in the Delta
Variable Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion pulchellum</i>	Sfintu Gheorghe
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	Sfintu Gheorghe; Saraiu
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	Eg Dranov
Green-eyed (Norfolk) Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>	Isac Lake
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	Isac Lake

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Selected Plant Species

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes
FERNS			
	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern	Common in the reedbeds, Delta
	<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	European Water Clover	In ditches near Sfantu Gheorghe
Aceraceae			
	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box Elder	Elder-like leaves, growing along rivers, delta
Alismataceae			
	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Water Plantain	Delta
	<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	Arrowhead	Delta
Anacardiaceae			
	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Bush	Sprawling shrub, Babadag
Apiaceae			
	<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
Asteraceae			
	<i>Centaurea marshalliana</i>		White Centaurea, Babadag
Betulaceae			
	<i>Alnus gultinosa</i>	Common Alder	Common riverside tree in the drier parts of the delta
Brassicaceae			
	<i>Sisymbrium sophia</i>	Flixweed	Fine-leaved yellow brassica
	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale	On the beach at Perisor
Boraginaceae			
	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey	Purple flowers, common in the reedbeds
	<i>Tournefortia sibirica</i>		The white-flowered plant at the back of the beach, Sahalin Island
Butomaceae			
	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush	Tall rush with pink flowers, delta
Caprifoliaceae			
	<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	Delta
	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Wayfaring Tree	Babadag
Caryophyllaceae			
	<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	Dyke bank, Sfanthu Gheorghe
Ceratophyllaceae			
	<i>Ceratophyllum demersum</i>	Rigid Hornwort	Delta
	<i>Ceratophyllum submersum</i>	Soft Hornwort	Delta
Convolvulaceae			
	<i>Convolvulus persicus</i>	Sand Bindweed	On the beach, Sfanthu Gheorghe. Romanian Red Data Book.
Corylaceae			
	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam	Babadag Forest
Eleagnaceae			
	<i>Eleagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive	Introduced roadside/bankside shrub
Fabaceae			
	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo	Riverside shrub, introduced from North America
	<i>Astragalus glaucus</i>		Pale yellow Astragalus, Babadag
	<i>Astragalus varius</i>		Carmine pink Astragalus, Babadag
	<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Wild Liquorice	Leaves along road verge, Babadag

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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>	Spiked 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: pale flowers, fluffy leaves
<i>Ajuga genevensis</i>	Blue Bugle	Babadag: dark blue flowers
<i>Lycopus europeus</i>	Gypsywort	Delta
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Delta
<i>Salvia austriaca</i>		The tall white Salvia, Babadag
<i>Salvia nutans</i>	Nodding Sage	Purple, nodding flower heads, Babadag
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	Common roadside sage
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
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	Delta
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash	Babadag
Orchidaceae		
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Babadag: deep purple spikes
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Babadag: creamy white flowers
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Birds-nest Orchid	Babadag: purplish, parasitic
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Babadag: very tall, in dappled shade
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Babadag: medium sized, in full sun
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Babadag
Paeoniaceae		
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>		The wild peony, Babadag
Plantaginaceae		
<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>		Babadag: the blue Globularia

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Poaceae		
<i>Stipa sp.</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>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 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
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Adonis verna</i>	Yellow Pheasant's Eye	Babadag Forest: fine leaved, large seed head
<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>		Babadag: upright blue clematis
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Wild Clematis	Babadag: scrambling over the roadside
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup	Delta
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis agg.</i>	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
Solanaceae		
<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: broad leaves
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	Common in the delta: narrow leaves
Viscaceae		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Common on willows