

Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 14<sup>th</sup> to 22nd May 2017

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL



**The Danube  
Delta 2017**



## Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

| # | DATE                 | LOCATIONS & NOTES  |
|---|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 14 <sup>th</sup> May | Flew from the UK to Bucharest and drove to Motel Diamant, Amara for overnight stay.  |
| 2 | 15 <sup>th</sup> May | Pre-breakfast walk around Amara fish ponds then drove to Girugeni to see the stork's nest, before stopping at Saraiu lake. Drove on to Babadag Forest for lunch and exploration, then another stop at Lake Saraturii near the delta; finally boarded tug at Murighiol and joined our houseboat Kingfisher at Uzlina. |
| 3 | 16 <sup>th</sup> May | Cruised down Sfantu Gheorghe channel to Sfantu Gheorghe where we moored. In the afternoon went for a walk through the village to the dunes and beach beyond.   |
| 4 | 17 <sup>th</sup> May | Morning trip along Turceasca channel to Sacalin island; afternoon trip along small channel to the north and walked back into Sfantu Gheorghe.  |
| 5 | 18 <sup>th</sup> May | Departed Sfantu Gheorghe and headed upstream to Lake Erenciuc for small boat trip before lunch. Then continued north to our mooring at Dunavat.  |
| 6 | 19 <sup>th</sup> May | Travelled down the Dunavat channel, then into the Dranov channel before stopping at the Dranov wetland area. Continued to Perisor for lunch and exploration; returned the same way.  |
| 7 | 20 <sup>th</sup> May | Explored the Perivolovca channel to the small lakes of Taranova and Gorgostel. In the afternoon departed Dunavat and continued up the Sfantu Gheorghe channel back to Uzlina.  |
| 8 | 21 <sup>st</sup> May | Morning boat trip along the Litcov channel to Lake Isac and Lake Uzlina. After lunch, returned to Lake Uzlina before heading to the east to visit Lake Pojarnia.   |
| 9 | 22 <sup>nd</sup> May | Farewell to the delta as we returned westwards towards Bucharest, stopping at Enisala (Bee-eater colony and fortress) and Saraiu lake; afternoon flight back to the UK.  |



Above: Kingfisher house boat

Front dover: European Roller

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## LIST OF TRAVELLERS

### **Leader**

Mike Symes

### **Guides**

George Panait

Petrisor Galan

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### Day One: 14<sup>th</sup> May. Arrival in Bucharest and transfer to Amara

After a trouble-free flight from London Heathrow, we all arrived safely in Bucharest and met up with our local guide Peter and our driver Mircea, or as he put it, our "life insurance". Once we'd loaded up the bus we headed towards Amara, our base for one night en route to the Danube delta. After a nice meal, drinks and a slice of birthday cake to celebrate a special day for one of our group, we retired to bed in readiness for our first full day in Romania.

### Day Two: 15<sup>th</sup> May. Travel to the Delta

The day dawned bright and sunny as we gathered outside the hotel for a pre-breakfast stroll around the local fishing lakes. Great Reed Warblers were busily setting up territories and singing their harsh, croaking songs from the reedbeds surrounding the lakes, and we were treated to repeated fly-pasts from Little Bitterns and several Cuckoos, which were excitedly chasing each other. Ferruginous Duck, Pochard, Gadwall and Great Crested Grebe were all seen, whereas a vocal Golden Oriole was typically more elusive. We also saw a bright male Eastern Green Lizard, basking in the early morning sun.

After breakfast we loaded up the bus and started to drive eastwards towards the delta. We made our first stop at the village of Giurgeni to admire a pair of White Storks on their nest, and also to pick out one or two Spanish Sparrows amongst the House Sparrows that had chosen to nest alongside, or rather underneath, the storks. We continued a little further to Saraiu lake which proved to be very productive, with Great White Egret, Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Purple Heron and Pygmy Cormorant all noted, as well as our first Bee-eaters and Hoopoe of the trip. The star birds here though were the small flock of Ruddy Shelduck, a real eastern speciality and always good to see.

We pushed further eastwards to Babadag Forest, where we had our lunch and took time to explore this wonderful area; the diversity of wild flowers was very impressive, with no fewer than seven orchid species recorded including some beautiful Lady Orchid spikes in the dappled shade. A few showy wild peonies *Paeonia peregrina* were also in flower, and we paused to appreciate Nodding Sage *Salvia nutans*, Great Milkwort *Polygala major*, Ground Pine *Ajuga chamaepitys* and Common Ball Flower *Globularia bisnagarica* amongst the many botanical highlights.

A few butterflies were out enjoying the sunshine, notably Glanville Fritillary and Scarce Swallowtail, but the birds were less visible – Nightingale, Ortolan Bunting, Blackcap and Icterine Warbler were heard singing from the trees as we ambled along, yet they all remained hidden from view.

After a quick stop to successfully locate a smart male Red-breasted Flycatcher, we reluctantly tore ourselves away from Babadag and continued on our way towards the delta, pausing one last time at Lake Saraturii to enjoy Dalmatian Pelican, Red-footed Falcon, Little Gull, Black-necked Grebe and elegant Black-winged Stilts wading in the shallows. We were now almost at our destination, and after a ten minute drive we arrived at Murighiol where we met up with George and climbed aboard the tugboat to ferry us to the Houseboat Kingfisher, our floating hotel for the next seven nights. After a delicious dinner of grilled *Alosa pontica*, a local fish delicacy, we finished the day with a review of our many and varied sightings.

### Day Three: 16<sup>th</sup> May. Uzlina to Sfintu Gheorghe

Another sunny morning saw us up on the top deck of the houseboat for some pre-breakfast birding. Highlights included the day's first White-tailed Eagle, and we had good views of a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker making frequent trips to its nest hole in a tree close to the boat; Hoopoe and a female Black Woodpecker were later seen in the same tree, the latter doing its best to smash big chunks of bark off the trunk in its search for insects.

After breakfast we began our leisurely cruise down the Sfintu Gheorghe channel, soaking up the atmosphere and taking in the birds. Both White and Dalmatian Pelicans were seen, and we were given a good opportunity to compare the main tern species of the delta as we passed feeding flocks of Common, Whiskered, Black and the contrastingly patterned White-winged Black Terns. Redstarts, Thrush Nightingales and Golden Orioles sang from the wooded areas alongside the channel. We were treated to

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decent views of a flock of Bee-eaters by their bankside nest holes, and as we headed towards the Black Sea we enjoyed increasing numbers of another colourful inhabitant of the area, the Roller.

We also had a fly-past from a less colourful, but equally impressive bird – the Great Black-headed Gull. This species only just ventures into Europe here on the delta, at the westernmost extremity of its range, so any sightings are to be savoured. There was just time to enjoy a tree-top Grey-headed Woodpecker before stomachs were rumbling and we took a break from the birds to work our way through a hearty lunch of locally caught carp and catfish.

Fully sated, we arrived at Sfantu Gheorghe and took a stroll through the village to the dunes and beach beyond. On the way we found a small European Pond Terrapin in the harbour, and two Eastern Tree Frogs on a low shrub in a wetland area. Lesser Grey Shrike and Lesser Whitethroats were seen, and the area turned out to be attractive to waders: a mixed flock of Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper, a small group of Ruff, two Little Ringed Plovers and a handful of Black-winged Stilts and Lapwing were all noted, as was a female Garganey which kept a low profile in the background.

The scrub behind the beach was relatively quiet for birds, but a quick scan across the Black Sea revealed two very rare winter visitors to the delta in the form of a pair of female Common Scoter. As we walked along the beach we enjoyed good views of White Pelican and a feeding flock of Little Gulls before we boarded the small boats to take us back to our houseboat in time to freshen up before dinner.

### **Day Four: 17<sup>th</sup> May. Sacalinu Island and Sfintu Gheorghe**

Before breakfast two very lucky group members enjoyed views of a Golden Jackal making its way along the riverbank across the channel from our mooring. Although it was a great sighting, the increasing numbers of Jackals which are spreading into the delta are actually bad news for the indigenous birdlife, as they will predate the nests of ground-nesting birds.

After breakfast we set off in the small boats for Sacalin island, a newly formed island in the Black Sea, taking time to enjoy the birds of the Turceasca channel along the way: Turtle Dove, Roller, several Hobbies, Black-crowned Night Herons and Lesser Grey Shrikes, and perhaps best of all, two Rose-coloured Starlings perched in the top of a bankside tree before flying off swiftly away from us.

As the channel opened out into the shallow lagoon we saw Spoonbill, Purple Heron, Whiskered Tern, huge White-tailed Eagles, and our best views yet of a group of White Pelicans, some with vivid orange colouration around the eyes as a sign that they were in full breeding plumage.

After a slightly muddy disembarkation on to the shore of Sacalin island, we set about trying to encourage one of Europe's rarest breeding birds to show itself to us; however, it was very windy and the reedbed behind the beach remained quiet – Paddyfield Warblers would have to wait for another occasion...

Back on the beach Little Stint, Ringed Plover and Turnstone were noted, and a good range of terns included Common, Sandwich, Gull-billed and a single hulking Caspian Tern. We were also treated to flight views of a smart Slender-billed Gull, and one member of the group found a juvenile Great Black-headed Gull to add to the adult that we had seen the day before.

By the time we returned to the boats the tide had dropped a little and so we all waded into the water and set about heaving the boats off the mud. Once we'd clambered aboard and were on the move, we set off into the spray to return to the houseboat. After we'd dried out somewhat from the rather damp boat trip, we had lunch and then in the late afternoon decided to explore the area to the north of Sfantu Gheorghe, walking along a small channel and then back through the village. Birds seen included Hoopoe, Garganey, Marsh Harrier, Squacco Heron, Northern Wheatear, Black Redstart, White Stork, Blue-headed Wagtail and an ever-so-brief Citrine Wagtail. Common Blue butterflies flitted low over the trackside vegetation providing additional interest to the walk, before eventually we returned to the houseboat for a drink and to relax before our evening meal.

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### Day Five: 18<sup>th</sup> May. Sfintu Gheorghe to Dunavat. Lake Erenciuc.

Today it was time to leave Sfintu Gheorghe, and so we began to travel upstream in the company of typical birds of the delta to which we were now becoming accustomed: Roller, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Cuckoo and the ever-present Marsh Harriers drifting over the vast reedbeds on either side of the Sfintu Gheorghe channel.

We transferred to the small boats to explore Lake Erenciuc, just off the main channel, and here we enjoyed close views of Common, Black and Whiskered Terns, which were all nesting amongst the lily pads and serrated leaves of the abundant Water Soldier *Stratiotes aloides*. Great Crested Grebe, Ferruginous Duck and a drake Garganey were all seen in the lagoon, as were single Dalmatian and White Pelicans, and all the while we were surrounded by a cacophony of croaking Marsh Frogs.

Back on the houseboat, we had just started to eat our lunch of goat soup and Prussian carp when we spotted a cracking adult Great Black-headed Gull on the water outside, and this bird then proceeded to give us our best views yet of this special eastern species. We continued to head north-west in a leisurely fashion, the reedbeds being gradually replaced by more woodland and scrubby grassland as we progressed, until we reached Dunavat which was to be our mooring site for the next two nights.

We saw Kingfisher, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Heron and Pygmy Cormorant around the channel, and a short pre-dinner walk revealed Eurasian Treecreeper, Lesser Grey Shrike, Tree Sparrow and both Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers in the wet woodland behind the houseboat. In the evening we discussed our plans for the next day, when we would be visiting the Black Sea coast one last time.

### Day Six: 19<sup>th</sup> May. Dranov, Holbina and Perisor beach

After breakfast we boarded the tug boat for a trip down the Dunavat channel, before transferring to the small boats to explore the narrower Dranov channel, winding its way southwards towards the coast. Birds seen along the way included great views of bankside Bee-eaters and Rollers, Hoopoe, Cuckoo, Black-crowned Night Heron and Red-footed Falcon.

We stopped at a brackish wetland area at Dranov and were greeted by a spectacular sight of around 100 semi-wild horses galloping past us; these animals live freely on the delta but are rounded up once a year and some are sold for the Italian horsemeat market. The shallow water and muddy edges proved to be a valuable habitat for waders with Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Ruff, Avocet, Black-winged Stilt, Curlew Sandpiper, Greenshank and Black-tailed Godwit all recorded.

We continued on to Perisor, to have lunch on the shores of the Black Sea. After feeding ourselves and some newly-acquired canine friends we took a short walk along the shell-strewn beach, where the surrounding bushes sheltered a few northbound migrants such as Willow Warbler, Whitethroat, Red-backed Shrike and Spotted Flycatcher. Plants here included Yellow Horned-poppy, Sea Kale and the delicate Sea Rocket, and a Clouded Yellow butterfly flitted past a couple of members of the group.

It was time to turn our attention to an area of reedbed further to the west of Perisor, for a second attempt to see Paddyfield Warbler. First George and then Peter played its song to try and elicit a response, and we were lucky enough to see at least three different birds which approached to investigate the phantom intruder. Unfortunately the birds were very skulking though, only showing themselves briefly in flight before disappearing into the reeds again, but still it was good to see this essentially Asian species in its only regular European breeding area.

We got back into the boats to take a small side channel to visit the location of a large Cormorant colony, but the birds were clearly not using the site anymore, and could be seen flying overhead further to the east. This channel was however full of Black-crowned Night Herons and Hobbies, which were constantly in view.

Returning to the tug boat, we enjoyed plenty more Hobbies as well as a few Red-footed Falcons en route, plus European Pond Terrapin, Grass Snake and Muskrat were also encountered in and around the water.

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The tug slowly made its way back up the Dunavat channel, and as we went Pygmy Cormorants, White Pelicans and Glossy Ibises could all be seen heading towards their evening roosts in the vast expanse of the delta.

### **Day Seven: 20<sup>th</sup> May. Taranova & Gorgostel. Dunavat to Uzlina.**

This morning we took the small boats out along the Perivolovca channel to visit the Taranova and Gorgostel lakes, to the east of Dunavat. Little Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Hobby and several Squacco Herons were seen along the channel; the latter in particular were quite showy, posing for the photographers and looking stunning in their bright breeding plumage.

As the narrow reed-fringed channel opened up to reveal the lakes we started to see a wider range of species, noting Pygmy Cormorant, Garganey, Ferruginous Duck, Pochard, Dalmatian Pelican and several pairs of Black Terns nesting on the lily pads around the lake edges. The lakes provided a suitable habitat for grebes, with Great Crested, Black-necked and Red-necked all recorded, and once again there were Marsh Frogs all over the place!

As we began to head back we came across a large feeding flock of White Pelicans, with many Cormorants in amongst them. Peter explained the nature of this symbiotic relationship: the pelicans spot the fish from a height and then congregate on the water; the cormorants follow the pelicans to the fish and their feeding under water drives the fish to the surface, within reach of the pelicans' huge bills. This feeding flock, together with additional birds circling overhead, made for a spectacular sight and was a satisfying way to finish our morning's trip.

We returned to the houseboat where we unfortunately had to say goodbye to our excellent local guide Peter, and thanked him for all his hard work over the past week. After lunch we left our mooring site at Dunavat and started to proceed slowly up the Sfantu Gheorghe channel, where there was plenty of time to relax and take it easy before arriving at Uzlina in the early evening. We had a short wander around the adjacent scrub and ponds to stretch our legs, picking out the songs of Sedge Warbler and Garden Warbler as we went, all the while being kept entertained by the antics of one of the boat crew's cat, which insisted on accompanying us on our walk. A delicious goat stew dinner was soon to follow, while outside another colourful sunset unfolded...

### **Day Eight: 21<sup>st</sup> May. Lakes Uzlina, Pojarnia and Isac**

Our luck with the weather finally changed this morning, with a keen wind and scattered rain showers passing through. A surprise came before breakfast in the form of a Short-toed Eagle drifting away from us across the main channel, and then while we were eating our cereal and eggs we were treated to a wonderful sight of large flocks of soaring White Pelicans coming over the houseboat. Eggs were momentarily forgotten as we hurried to grab our cameras...

This morning's boat trip took us along the Litcov channel to Lakes Isac and Uzlina. Earlier in the season George had located some Penduline Tit nests, so we went to see if their inhabitants would put in an appearance – unfortunately despite giving it some time, it was very windy and the birds were evidently sheltering and keeping their heads down.

As we slowly made our way across the lakes we saw a large group of Mute Swans, Pochard, both Pelicans, both Cormorants, and several Great Crested, Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes. Whiskered Terns floated in the air above the lily pads, and we had a particularly good view of a Black-crowned Night Heron at close range along the channel – for once it didn't fly off as we approached...

In the afternoon the wind eased and we headed out to Lake Uzlina again, however this time we ventured further east to the shallow waters of Lake Pojarnia. The range of birds seen was similar to this morning, but in more favourable weather conditions we were able to take more time to enjoy our surroundings – to appreciate the sights and sounds of the delta one last time. We also managed to eventually track down a Penduline Tit; after hearing their characteristic high-pitched 'sighing' calls coming from a willow tree in the

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reeds, a few of us managed to obtain good views of a territorial male for several seconds as it perched openly in the reeds in front of us.

One of our group was extremely lucky to see a Wild Boar swimming across a small channel in front of the boat – who knew they were such good swimmers? A few more of us saw a rather smaller mammal species in the form of a Muskrat at the base of an area of reeds.

We returned to the houseboat for our last evening meal together, and we thanked the kitchen staff for looking after us and feeding us so well this past week. After discussing the day's wildlife highlights we packed our bags in readiness for tomorrow's departure from the delta.

### **Day Nine: 16<sup>th</sup> May. Uzlina to Bucharest, via Nufaru and Saraiu.**

Today marked the end of our time on the Houseboat Kingfisher, so we took one last boat trip across to Murighiol where we met up with our driver Mircea again. After saying farewell to our excellent host George, we began the long drive westwards towards the capital. We had only been going for a few minutes when we recorded a new mammal for the trip – a Brown Hare sat in a roadside field, staring back at us with one bright eye visible as it watched us drive past.

We made our first stop near Enisala to visit a Bee-eater colony, although the majority of nest holes were now occupied by Starlings! A few Bee-eaters were seen, as well as a couple of fly-past Rollers, and we also saw another new mammal: a Souslik, a type of ground squirrel which lives in colonies and digs its burrows in short grassland habitats. We drove up to the 13<sup>th</sup> century citadel on the hilltop above Enisala, which was built to control access to the Black Sea, and here we found Northern Wheatear, Linnet and Hoopoe on the rocky slopes below the fortress.

It was time to press on, and as the rain lashed down we headed back to Saraiu lake, where we had stopped en route to the delta a week ago, to have our picnic lunch. The Ruddy Shelduck were still present in the same area of marsh, as were a few Spoonbill and Glossy Ibis, and as we ate our sandwiches we listened to the chuntering Great Reed Warblers and chorus of Marsh Frogs – reedbeds back home will seem very quiet by comparison!

Our time in Romania was fast running out, so we continued on to the airport; the traffic around Bucharest did its best to delay us, but Mircea got us there in time and we boarded our flight back to the UK, to reflect on our wonderful trip to one of Europe's richest wildlife destinations.





## DANUBE DELTA 2017: some highlights



Top: White Pelican

First row, l to r: Scarce Swallowtails and Great Black-headed Gull

second row, l to r: Squacco Heron, Lady Orchid and Great Reed Warbler

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X = Seen      H = Heard only      S = Signs      D = Dead

| ENGLISH NAME  | LATIN NAME                   | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 18 <sup>h</sup> | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>BIRDS</b>  |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese and Swans)</b>         |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Mute Swan   | <i>Cygnus olor</i>           |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Greylag Goose   | <i>Anser anser</i>           |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Shelduck  | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>       |                  | X                | X                |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Ruddy Shelduck  | <i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>    |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| Mallard   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>    |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                | X                |
| Gadwall   | <i>Anas strepera</i>         |                  | X                |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Garganey  | <i>Anas querquedula</i>      |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                |                  |                  |
| Pochard   | <i>Aythya ferina</i>         |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  | X                | X                |                  |
| Ferruginous Duck  | <i>Aythya nyroca</i>         |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Goldeneye   | <i>Bucephala clangula</i>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Common Scoter   | <i>Melanitta nigra</i>       |                  |                  | X                |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Phasianidae (Pheasants and Partridges)</b>    |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Pheasant  | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i>   |                  | X                |                  | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Quail   | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i>     |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | H                |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)</b>                    |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Black-necked Grebe                                      | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>  |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  | X                | X                |                  |
| Great Crested Grebe                                     | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i>    |                  | X                |                  |                  | X               |                  | X                | X                | X                |
| Red-necked Grebe  | <i>Podiceps grisegena</i>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  | X                | X                |                  |
| <b>Family Pelecanidae (Pelicans)</b>                    |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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                |
| <b>Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants)</b>            |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Cormorant   | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>   |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                | X                |
| Pygmy Cormorant   | <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> |                  | X                | X                |                  | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| <b>Family Ardeidae (Hérons)</b>                         |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Great Bittern   | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i>    |                  |                  |                  |                  | H               | H                |                  |                  |                  |
| Little Bittern  | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>    |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Black-crowned Night Heron                               | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> |                  |                  | 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                |                  |                  |
| Squacco Heron   | <i>Ardeola rolloides</i>     |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Grey Heron  | <i>Ardea cinerea</i>         |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                | X                |
| Purple Heron  | <i>Ardea purpurea</i>        |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)</b> |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Glossy Ibis   | <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>  |                  | X                | X                |                  | X               | X                | X                | X                | X                |
| Spoonbill   | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i>   |                  | X                |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| <b>Family Ciconiidae (Storks)</b>                       |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| White Stork   | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i>       |                  | X                | X                | X                |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Vultures)</b> |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| White-tailed Eagle                                      | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>  |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               |                  |                  | X                |                  |
| Lesser Spotted Eagle                                    | <i>Aquila pomarina</i>       |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Short-toed Eagle  | <i>Circaetus gallicus</i>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  | X                |                  |
| Marsh Harrier   | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i>    |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Common Buzzard  | <i>Buteo buteo</i>           | X                |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| 'Steppe' Buzzard  | <i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>  |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Long-legged Buzzard                                     | <i>Buteo rufinus</i>         |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |

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| ENGLISH NAME  | LATIN NAME                        | 14 <sup>th</sup> | 15 <sup>th</sup> | 16 <sup>th</sup> | 17 <sup>th</sup> | 18 <sup>h</sup> | 19 <sup>th</sup> | 20 <sup>th</sup> | 21 <sup>st</sup> | 22 <sup>nd</sup> |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Family Falconidae (Falcons)</b>                  |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Kestrel   | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i>          | X                | X                |                  | X                |                 |                  | X                |                  |                  |
| Red-footed Falcon                                   | <i>Falco vespertinus</i>          |                  | X                | X                | X                |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Hobby   | <i>Falco subbuteo</i>             |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| <b>Family Rallidae (Rails and Crakes)</b>           |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Moorhen   | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i>        |                  | H                |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  | X                |                  |
| Coot  | <i>Fulica atra</i>                |                  | X                | 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 Charadriidae (Plovers)</b>                |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Little Ringed Plover                                | <i>Charadrius dubius</i>          |                  |                  | X                |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Ringed Plover                                       | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>       |                  |                  | X                | X                |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Lapwing   | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i>          |                  | X                | X                | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers)</b>             |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Dunlin  | <i>Calidris alpina</i>            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Curlew Sandpiper                                    | <i>Calidris ferruginea</i>        |                  |                  | X                |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Turnstone   | <i>Arenaria interpres</i>         |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Little Stint  | <i>Calidris minuta</i>            |                  |                  | X                | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Spotted Redshank                                    | <i>Tringa erythropus</i>          |                  |                  | H                |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Greenshank  | <i>Tringa nebularia</i>           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Black-tailed Godwit                                 | <i>Limosa limosa</i>              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Ruff  | <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>         |                  |                  | X                |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Laridae (Gulls)</b>                       |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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                |                  |                 |                  | X                |                  |                  |
| Great Black-headed (=Pallas's) Gull                 | <i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>    |                  |                  | X                | X                | X               | X                |                  |                  |                  |
| Caspian Gull  | <i>Larus cachinnans</i>           |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                | X                |
| Yellow-legged Gull                                  | <i>Larus michahellis</i>          | X                | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Little Gull   | <i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>       |                  | X                | X                |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Sternidae (Terns)</b>                     |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Sandwich Tern                                       | <i>Thalasse sandvicensis</i>      |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Gull-billed Tern                                    | <i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>      |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Common Tern   | <i>Sterna hirundo</i>             | X                | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Caspian Tern  | <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>         |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Black Tern  | <i>Chlidonias niger</i>           |                  | 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                |
| <b>Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)</b>        |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon                              | <i>Columba livia</i>              | X                | X                | X                | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| Stock Dove  | <i>Columba oenas</i>              |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Woodpigeon  | <i>Columba palumbus</i>           |                  | X                | X                |                  | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Collared Dove                                       | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>      |                  | X                | X                | X                |                 |                  | X                | X                | X                |
| Turtle Dove   | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i>        |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)</b>                   |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Cuckoo  | <i>Cuculus canorus</i>            |                  | X                | X                | X                | X               | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| <b>Family Apodidae (Swifts)</b>                     |                                   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Swift   | <i>Apus apus</i>                  |                  | X                | X                |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |



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|---|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Family Paridae ( Tits )</b>                  |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Great Tit                                       | <i>Parus major</i>           |                  | X                | X                | X                | X                | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| Blue Tit  | <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>   |                  |                  | X                | H                | X                | X                | X                | X                |                  |
| <b>Family Aegithalidae ( Long-tailed Tits )</b> |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Long-tailed Tit                                 | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>   |                  |                  |                  |                  | X                |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Remizidae ( Penduline Tits )</b>      |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Penduline Tit                                   | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i>      |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | X                |                  |
| <b>Family Certhiidae ( Treecreepers )</b>       |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Eurasian Treecreeper                            | <i>Certhia familiaris</i>    |                  |                  |                  |                  | X                | X                | X                |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Laniidae ( Shrikes )</b>              |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Red-backed Shrike                               | <i>Lanius collurio</i>       |                  | 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                |
| Jackdaw   | <i>Corvus monedula</i>       |                  | X                |                  | X                |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Rook  | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>     | 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                | X                | X                | H                | X                |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Passeridae ( Sparrows )</b>           |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| 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                |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Fringillidae ( Finches )</b>          |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Chaffinch                                       | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i>     |                  | X                | H                |                  | X                |                  | X                | X                |                  |
| Linnet  | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i>   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| Goldfinch                                       | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i>   |                  |                  | X                | X                | X                |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>Family Emberizidae ( Buntings )</b>          |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Reed Bunting                                    | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>  |                  | X                |                  | X                |                  |                  |                  | X                |                  |
| Ortolan Bunting                                 | <i>Emberiza hortulana</i>    |                  | H                |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Corn Bunting                                    | <i>Emberiza calandra</i>     |                  | X                |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                  | X                |

### AMPHIBIANS

#### Frogs and Toads

|                   |                             |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fire-bellied Toad | <i>Bombina bombina</i>      |   |   | H | H | H | H | H | H |   |
| Eastern Tree Frog | <i>Hyla orientalis</i>      |   |   | X |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| Marsh Frog        | <i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i> | H | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | H |

### REPTILES

#### Tortoises and Terrapins

|                        |                         |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| European Pond Terrapin | <i>Emys orbicularis</i> |  |  | X |  |  | X |  |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|

#### Lizards

|                      |                          |  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Eastern Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta bilineata</i> |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sand Lizard          | <i>Lacerta agilis</i>    |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Balkan Wall Lizard   | <i>Podarcis taurica</i>  |  | X |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

#### Snakes

|             |                      |  |  |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|-------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Grass Snake | <i>Natrix natrix</i> |  |  |  |  |  | X |  |  |  |
|-------------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|

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|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>MAMMALS</b>       |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Golden Jackal        | <i>Canis aureus</i>          |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Wild Boar            | <i>Sus scrofa</i>            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | S                |                  | X                |                  |
| Roe Deer             | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>   |                  |                  |                  | S                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Brown Hare           | <i>Lepus europaeus</i>       |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| European Souslik     | <i>Spermophilus citellus</i> |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  | X                |
| Muskrat              | <i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  | X                |                  |
| Eurasian Mole        | <i>Talpa europaea</i>        |                  | D                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| <b>BUTTERFLIES</b>   |                              |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Small Heath          | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Glanville Fritillary | <i>Melitaea cinxia</i>       |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Scarce Swallowtail   | <i>Iphiclides podalirius</i> |                  | X                |                  |                  |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Common Blue          | <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>    |                  |                  |                  | X                |                 |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Clouded Yellow       | <i>Colias croceus</i>        |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 | X                |                  |                  |                  |



Above: female Red-footed Falcon and Black-crowned Night Heron

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| SELECTED PLANT SPECIES   |                                 |   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Lady Orchid              | <i>Orchis purpurea</i>          | Babadag: very tall, showy flower spikes                               |
| Greater Butterfly Orchid | <i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>   | Babadag: a couple of plants in the shade                              |
| Monkey Orchid            | <i>Orchis simia</i>             | Babadag: mid-sized spikes, in sunny clearings                         |
| Green-winged Orchid      | <i>Anacamptis morio</i>         | Babadag: fairly small, deep purple; mostly gone over                  |
| Bird's-nest Orchid       | <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>       | Babadag: single plant found in deep shade; no chlorophyll - parasitic |
| Military Orchid          | <i>Orchis militaris</i>         | Babadag: a few plants in sunny clearings                              |
| White Helleborine        | <i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i> | Babadag: a couple of plants found; still in bud                       |
| Wild Peony               | <i>Paeonia peregrina</i>        | Babadag: several out in flower in dappled shade                       |
| Great Milkwort           | <i>Polygala major</i>           | Babadag: stout <i>Polygala</i> with pink flowers                      |
| Common Ball Flower       | <i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>   | Babadag: the blue <i>Globularia</i>                                   |
| Nodding Sage             | <i>Salvia nutans</i>            | Babadag: tall, with nodding purple flower heads                       |
| Austrian Sage            | <i>Salvia austriaca</i>         | Babadag: tall, white <i>Salvia</i>                                    |
| Ground Pine              | <i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>        | Babadag: low-growing, yellow flowers in open areas                    |
| Blue Bugle               | <i>Ajuga genevensis</i>         | Babadag: dark blue flowers  |
| Sand Bindweed            | <i>Convolvulus persicus</i>     | On the beach at Sfantu Gheorghe                                       |
| Sea Holly                | <i>Eryngium maritimum</i>       | On the beach at Sfantu Gheorghe                                       |
| Sand Catchfly            | <i>Silene conica</i>            | Dyke bank, Sfantu Gheorghe  |
| Yellow Horned-poppy      | <i>Glaucium flavum</i>          | Beach at Perisor  |
| Sea Kale                 | <i>Crambe maritima</i>          | Beach at Perisor, also on Sacalin island                              |
| Sea Rocket               | <i>Cakile maritima</i>          | Beach at Perisor  |
| Water Soldier            | <i>Stratiotes aloides</i>       | Floating plant common in shallow lakes of the delta; serrated leaves  |



European Bee-eater