

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Danube Delta 2025



Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 23rd to 31st May 2025

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	23 rd May	Arrival in Bucharest, transfer to Amara.
2	24 th May	Lacul Amara, Giurgeni, Lacul Hazarlâc, Babadag Forest, Enisala.
3	25 th May	Lacul Isâccel and Lacul Isac.
4	26 th May	Travel to Sfântu Gheorghe. Canalul Tâtaru and Sfântu Gheorghe marshes.
5	27 th May	Olinca channel. Walk to the Black Sea coast.
6	28 th May	Cruise to Dunavat Channel.
7	29 th May	Dunavat Channel. Cruise to Uzlina.
8	30 th May	Lacul Gorgova and Lacul Gorgovăț.
9	31 st May	Transfer to Bucharest and return to UK.

Leaders

Laurie Jackson

Sussex

Mike Russell

Sussex

Guide

George Panait

Romania

A gallery of photos from the trip is at [Danube Delta 2025 | Flickr](#)

Day One: 23rd May. Arrival in Bucharest, transfer to Amara.

Our morning flight took us from London Heathrow south-east, crossing the Netherlands, Germany, Czechia, Slovakia and Hungary before we descended over Romania into a warm and sunny Bucharest Otopeni, where we met up with Mike and George, our driver.

We were soon continuing east towards Amara, our stop for the night, spotting our first White Storks prowling the open fields, and colonies of Bee-eaters in sandy banks, while plentiful Swallows whizzed around the villages that we passed.

Arriving at our hotel in the late afternoon, we were greeted by the clunky song of Great Reed Warbler drifting over from nearby Lacul Amara, with a Thrush Nightingale commencing its own, slightly 'wooden' chorus during the evening.

Day Two: 24th May. Lacul Amara, Giurgeni, Lacul Hazarlâc, Babadag Forest, Enisala.

Our morning started with a pre-breakfast visit to Lacul Amara. The area around the 135ha lake, whose name translates as bitter late in reference to its high salt concentration, was in the process of being developed into some kind of resort. Whilst in previous years we have been able to wander over to the lake, this year we had to wait to be let in before the wandering could commence.

Small groups of Pygmy Cormorants, Whiskered Terns, Black-winged Stilts and Spoonbills flew overhead as we waited and we could hear Penduline Tit and Golden Oriole in the nearby trees, although true to form neither were spotted!

Gates unlocked we gravitated naturally towards the water, crossing short grassland with a profusion of the delicate yellow-flowered (and vaguely pine-scented) Ground Pine. Reaching the first lake, it didn't take long to spot our first 'over-sized' Great Reed Warbler as it clung to the top of a reed stem in full song. These songsters provided much of the morning's soundtrack, but were also joined by Sedge Warbler, Cetti's Warbler and the subtle reeling of Savi's Warbler, as well as frequent flybys from several Cuckoos, one of which was a little hoarse!

On the open water we found our first smart-looking Ferruginous Ducks, gleaming rich-chestnut in the sun, alongside Pochard, and a fleeting Garganey that swiftly disappeared into the reeds. Purple Herons put in brief appearances before we finally found one motionless (for a while at least) along the shore, but the stars of the morning were undoubtedly the two or more pairs of Little Bittern that flew between patches of vegetation on several occasions.

After breakfast back at the hotel, it was time to load up the bus and continue our progress east. Our first stop was in the village of Giurgeni to peer up at one of the local White Stork nests (its occupants peering down at us in return). It wasn't the storks we'd come to see, but their squatters, a pair of Spanish Sparrows, smarter and less obtrusive than their cousins, the House Sparrows that were also using the storks' towering structure. After time to enjoy the comings and goings around the nest and spotting our first trio of raptors: a hovering Kestrel, Hobby racing over, and a hulking White-tailed Eagle, we headed back to the bus bound for our next stop, crossing the Danube soon after we left.

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After a coffee stop, which gave us a pair of Red-backed Shrikes, a Hoopoe and the chance to look for the pale collar of the 'eastern' Jackdaws here, we carried on to nearby Lacul Hazarlâc. Our first White Pelicans were waiting for us, along with several Squacco Herons that 'exploded' into startling white as they flew away. Scanning the shore we found Common Terns, joined by a pair of Little Stint busy probing the mud, and an elegant Collared Pratincole, with Whiskered Terns over the water.

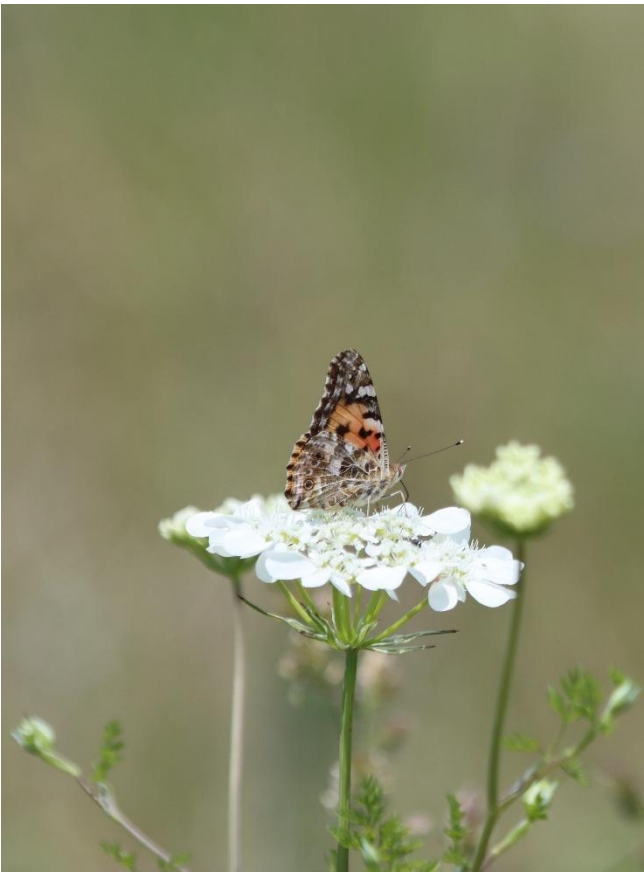
With lunch calling, we made our way to Babadag Forest, an oak-lime-elm woodland, nature reserve and Important Bird Area. Parking in an open area of grassland we had some time to explore, finding plants including White Laceflower, Swallow-wort, purple *Iris sintenisii*, Lady Orchid, the downy Golden Drop, Violet Limadore, Hound's-tongue and the architectural Soft Thistle. There were plenty of butterflies to keep us entertained, particularly the fritillaries, with Niobe Fritillary, the spotted Queen of Spain Fritillary, and the large Cardinal with its flash of hot-pink occasionally visible on the forewing underside.

Our final stop was at Enisala to explore the area around its 14th Century fortress with views over the wetlands below, where a group of Shelduck milled. A Northern Wheatear was hopping over the rocky hillside, with a Crested Lark singing nearby, and down in the valley the jangle of Corn Bunting song, as two Hoopoes flitted past.

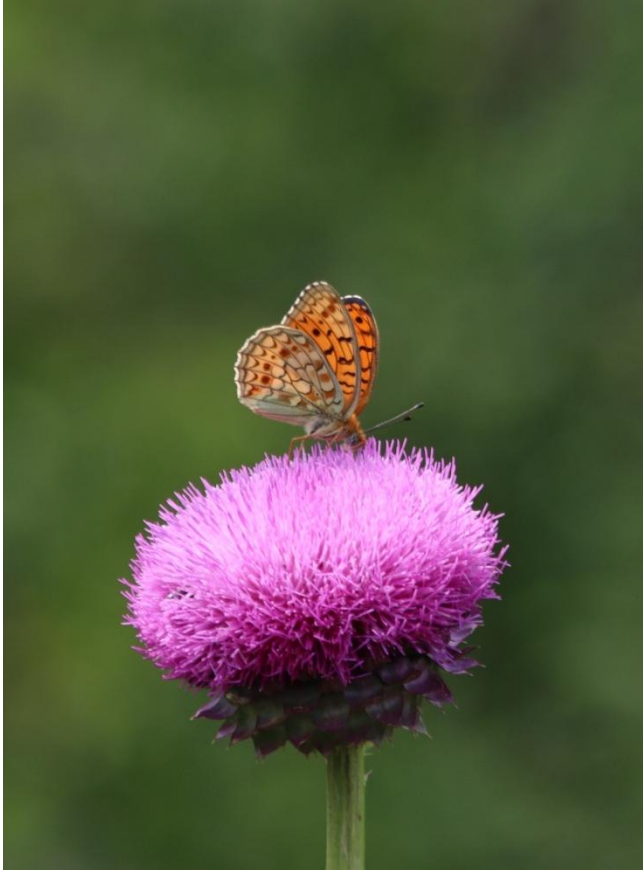
It was then time to continue to Murighiol where the small boats whisked us and our luggage out towards Uzlina and the *Kingfisher*, our home for the remainder of the holiday as we explored the southernmost Sfântu Gheorghe branch of the Danube. As we made our right turn for our final approach to the mooring, we passed a group of Caspian Gulls, Pallas's Gulls and Yellow-legged Gulls on a sandbank, before reaching our home for the night complete with a healthy evensong from the nearby vegetation.



Above: White Stork.



Top to bottom: Spanish Sparrow; Soft Thistle; Painted Lady; Cardinal Fritillary.



Top to bottom: Niobe Fritillary; False Saw-wort; Violet Limadore; Northern Wheatear.

Day Three: 25th May. Lacul Isâccel and Lacul Isac.

We awoke to a wonderful chorus of birds from the bankside, including two competing warblers we would (more-or-less) get to grips with: Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and Icterine Warbler, the latter whose song contains a lot of mimicry, doing us the courtesy of occasionally singing from an open perch. Cuckoos were very much in evidence as they would be for our entire stay, with a vocal Kingfisher occasionally flying by at just-above-water height, and Golden Orioles once again staying adeptly out of sight.

Setting out after breakfast in the two small boats we headed down a nearby channel to explore Lacul Isâccel and Lacul Isac. A gloomy day weather-wise was cheered by the numerous birds singing along the vegetated channel: plentiful Blackcaps, Chaffinches, Eastern Olivaceous Warblers and Redstarts, which handed over to Savi's Warblers, Reed Warblers and Great Reed Warblers in the open areas of reed.

Grey Herons were plentiful along the water's edge, propped in trees and on rocks, and as we entered the first lake we found Squacco Herons stalking the lily pads for the Marsh Frogs that were also in good supply. Large groups of birds were on the water: gangs of Coots in one direction, Great Crested Grebe in another, with Pochard and Gadwall, joined by Ferruginous Duck. A group of White Pelicans was hauled out on a dead tree alongside Pygmy Cormorants, and large squadrons of both Cormorant and Pygmy Cormorant flew overhead, the latter dwarfed by their much larger cousins.

Feeling like we might be pushing our luck with the weather, we headed back out in the boats after lunch to explore a different area, including smaller channels weaving through towering reedbeds. In the end we managed to keep warm enough and dry enough, as we had a great introduction to the species richness and abundance on our first full day on the Danube Delta.

Day Four: 26th May. Travel to Sfântu Gheorghe. Canalul Tâtaru and Sfântu Gheorghe marshes.

If we were lucky with the weather yesterday, today perhaps less so... During breakfast a tug drew alongside us in preparation for our journey down the river towards Sfântu Gheorghe, and before long we were on the move.

The wind and rain had settled in for the morning, so most of our wildlife watching was done from inside, forgoing the sundeck. The vast Delta around us comprised huge blocks of riparian woodland interspersed with seemingly endless reedbeds. There were plenty of birds to spot along the way: the ubiquitous Grey Herons, Whiskered Terns and White Pelicans, along with smaller numbers of Dalmatian Pelicans and elegant Pallas's Gulls.

We passed a sandy bank home to a colony of Bee-eaters, which were unsurprisingly keeping their heads down given the weather. Perseverance out on deck was rewarded by an ever-changing chorus of birds as we travelled: plenty of Common Redstarts, Chiffchaffs, Chaffinch and Blackcaps with the occasional Lesser Whitethroat and Thrush Nightingale thrown in for variety. White-tailed Eagles and Hobbies were spotted along the way, along with a Golden Jackal, lurking optimistically near a fishing shelter.

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As we neared Sfântu Gheorghe we made for our mooring spot on the opposite bank where ropes were soon tied, hugging us close to the bankside.

We set off later that afternoon in the small boats, crossing the Sfântu Gheorghe channel and heading up Canalul Tâtaru to the west of Sfântu Gheorghe, with patches of both Yellow Water Lilly and White Water Lily flowering low in the water and Yellow Iris along the banks.

Finding a landing place, we started our walk alongside the channel back towards the village, finding some interesting plants including Sand Catchfly, Hound's-tongue, Shining Spurge and in the wetter areas Marsh Orchid and Marsh Fern. There was still a keen wind, so insects were generally tucked away, but a Painted Lady was braving the day, and we also found Blue-tailed Damselflies roosting in the vegetation.

As we neared the open marsh we spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Lapwing and some vocal Black-winged Stilts before our attention was drawn skywards to a quartet of Red-footed Falcons spread across the marsh hovering as they surveyed the ground below, before diving for unseen morsels. A Red-backed Shrike sat out in the open, giving prolonged views, and a pair of Golden Oriole flew overhead, before we continued around the marsh, passing some sizeable bulls, on our way to the village and our lift back to *Kingfisher*.

Day Five: 27th May. Olinca channel. Walk to the Black Sea coast.

Today we were headed south along the Olinca channel towards Sacalin Island, which emerged from the Black Sea in 1897. There were impressive numbers of herons along the channel including Great White Egrets, Purple Herons and Night Herons, which held their nerve until the last minute before retreating. Hobbys were perched on dead branches, and a single Spotted Flycatcher was nice to see, as were a couple of Grey-headed Woodpeckers relocating between dead branches.

As the channel opened out into the Laguna Sacalin section of the Black Sea, we came across a large gathering of Mute Swans and White Pelicans, with a small group of Spoonbills dozing behind. We passed a White-tailed Eagle here at close range, balanced on an improbably modest stick for such a large bird!

Out on the open water the conditions were choppier and it wasn't possible to make a landing on the island, but from our boats we could appreciate the number of birds using the site, declared an ecological reserve by the Romanian government, before we began our return along the channel, with a pair of White-tailed Eagles settling a dispute overhead.

This afternoon saw us making the shorter crossing back to Sfântu Gheorghe to walk through the fishing village, once at the heart of Romania's sturgeon fishery. Sturgeon fishing was banned in 2006 following catastrophic declines in the population, with impacts on the ecology of the river and small communities like this. Restocking efforts are now underway.

Walking through the village, we spotted a couple of Black Redstart fledglings doing their best to hide in a gutter; their curiosity ultimately giving the game away, while two White Wagtails were busily provisioning their own nest nearby. The village includes many Lipovans, who originally emigrated

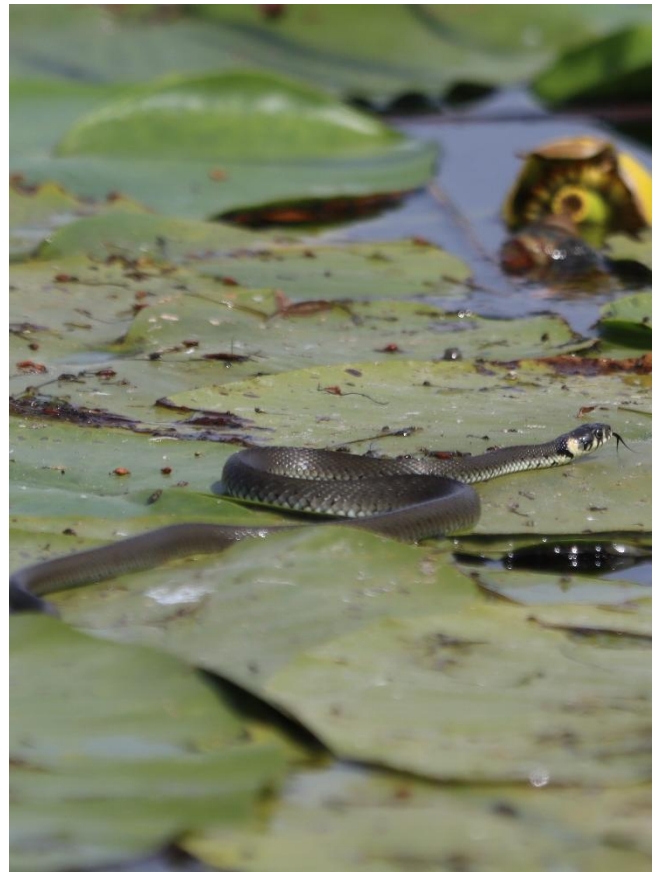
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from Russia and Ukraine in the 18th Century following reforms to the Russian Orthodox Church, and their influence was reflected in some of the buildings.

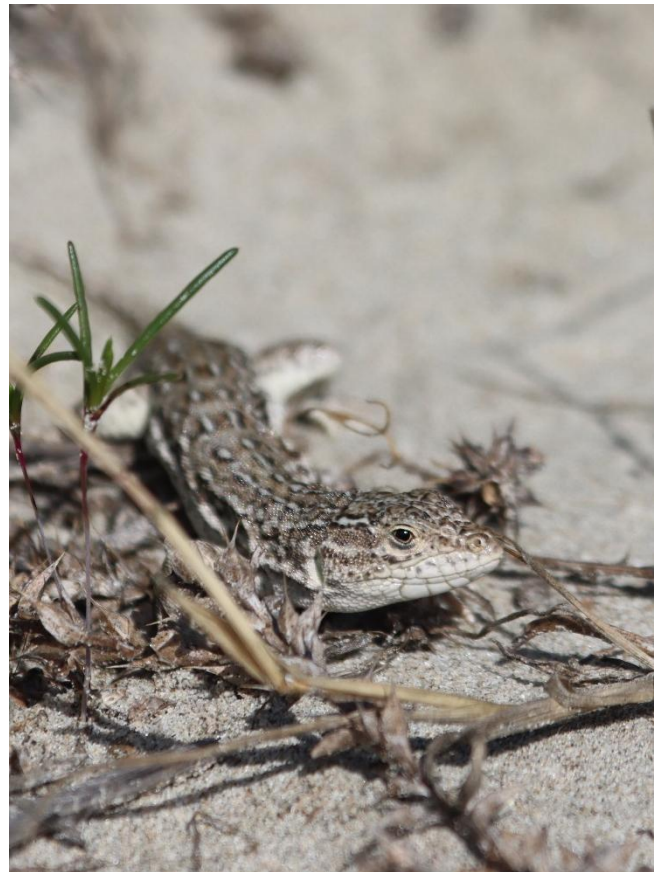
Leaving the village, we walked through an area of marshy grassland and scrub home to Flowering Rush, Greater Sea-spurrey, Fringed Water Lily and the fragrant Sea Wormwood. It was here we finally managed to get proper views of Roller, following many fleeting glimpses, with a pair perch-hunting the marsh in front of us, the sunlight showing off their plumage.

After our fill of Rollers, we reached the sandy shores of the Black Sea where more interesting plants were found including Sea-holly and European Sea Rocket, along with Siberian Sea-rosemary and the bindweed *Convolvulus persicus*, both at the western edge of their range here. After some patient searching among the sparse vegetation, we also spotted the handsome Steppe-runner, another species at the western edge of its range, in its only European enclave.

From here there was time to stretch our legs as we walked along the beach in a lively breeze, admiring a plethora of shells and enjoying views out over the Black Sea. We found the Sea-buckthorn feeding moth *Drasteria caucasia*, another species at its western edge, battling the wind, along with a cow that had seen much better days, before the small boats retrieved us from the river mouth.



Above: Squacco Heron; Grass Snake.



Top to bottom: Sand Catchfly; Dalmatian Pelican; Flowering Rush; Steppe-runner.

Day Six: 28th May. Cruise to Dunavat Channel.

Another travel day today and our journey back up the river became lazier than planned as we waited for a replacement part to be delivered to our trusty tug. Once underway there were plenty of Hobbys perched along the riverbanks, with groups of Glossy Ibis flying overhead. The birdsong flowed seamlessly through Chaffinch, Redstart, Great Tit, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler and back again, with occasional bursts of Golden Oriole song demonstrating the amazing power of a bright-yellow bird to stay invisible.

Our mooring for the night was a quiet spot on the Dunavat Channel, putting us in prime position to explore some of the area's wilder channels.

Day Seven: 29th May. Dunavat Channel. Cruise to Uzlina.

We were back in the small boats today to explore the heavily-wooded, primeval-feeling Dunavat Channel, willow seed drifting in the air. The familiar chorus of Redstart, Eastern Olivaceous Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Chaffinch and Great Tit rose around us, and there were plenty of Night Herons tucked into crevices as we passed.

Fallen branches and trees in the water provided perches for Pygmy Cormorants and Kingfishers, and we spotted a couple of European Pond Terrapins basking in prime sunny spots. Eventually the channel opened out into Lacul Erenciuc with the impressive site of hundreds of Mute Swans.

Continuing on, Yellow and White Water Lily pads began to crowd the lake's surface and here we found a nesting colony of Whiskered Terns and Black-headed Gulls, the rasping calls of the terns filling the air, with a pair of Black-necked Grebes keeping us guessing as to where they would next pop up.

After some time to enjoy the antics of the terns, we were equally entertained by the sight of a large group of White Pelicans cooperatively fishing, rushing forwards in a horseshoe formation, synchronised bills down and tails in the air! Studies of this behaviour in American White Pelicans suggest this coordinated feeding behaviour leads to the highest capture rate of fish per bird when compared to solo fishing.

Our day also included a revisit to the Bee-eater colony, into which the sunshine had breathed a lot more life, as birds cheerfully called overhead and from the bankside shrubs. We changed mooring today, heading back to our starting point near Uzlina in time for a glorious Danube sunset.

Day Eight: 30th May. Lacul Gorgova and Lacul Gorgovăț.

It was a breezy start this morning as we set out after breakfast down the main river channel to explore a new area of the Delta. As we travelled a seemingly endless procession of White-tailed Eagles appeared over the river and trees, with around 15 individuals seen before we turned into a side channel. The fringes of this wide channel were patrolled by a Marsh Harrier, and there were brief sightings of Musk Rat and Kingfisher.

As the channel narrowed and the willows again closed in, we could see armies of red- and blue-spotted Gypsy Moth larvae feeding on the leaves. We travelled down a quieter canal past fishing huts, and spotting Rollers dotted through the more open areas.

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After some time in the 'secret' reedbed channels, where we crossed paths with Purple Herons and Glossy Ibis at close range, our road eventually led us to an open lake filled with platoons of Coots, and both White and Dalmatian Pelicans. Among the lily pads we found more nesting terns: this time, elegant Black Terns, as well as a Red-necked Grebe doing its best to go unnoticed.

Our return was via a familiar route from our first journeys out in the small boats, with a cast of familiar faces seemingly in the same places: Little Egret on a rock, Common Terns on a branch over the water and a Grey Heron on a pontoon. A nice addition for some was a fly-by Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, along with a hefty Black Woodpecker surveying the landscape from the top of a dead tree.

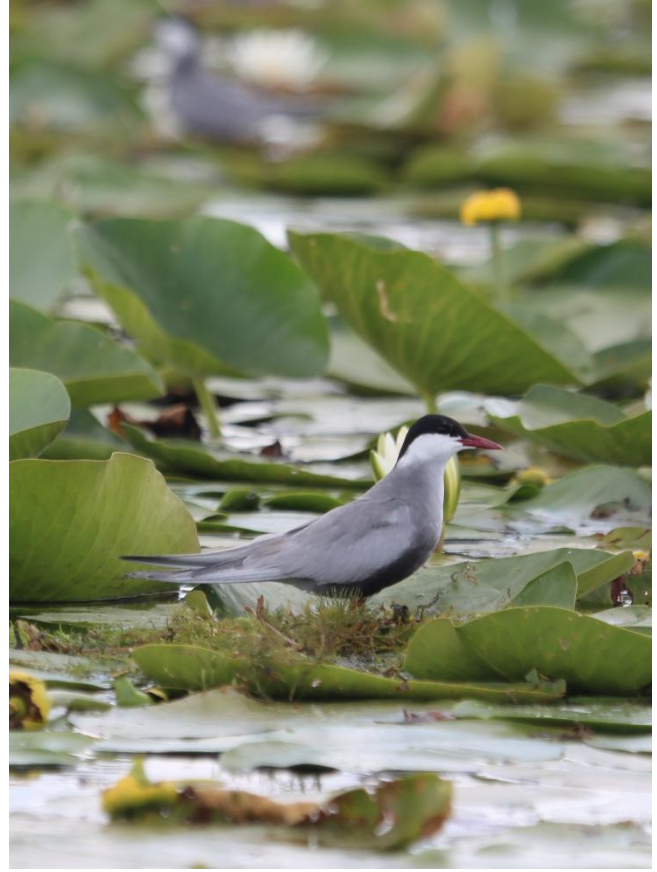
Day Nine: 31st May. Transfer to Bucharest and return to UK.

Our final morning in Romania was sunny and blue, and we needed no further excuse to spend the morning on the sundeck. It really was a breathtaking send off as huge groups of Cormorant, White Pelicans, Pygmy Cormorants and Glossy Ibis streamed over, along with individual Squacco and Night Herons, whilst the Cuckoos and Golden Orioles called and the Icterine Warbler continued trying to fool us with his tales of woodpeckers and bee-eaters.

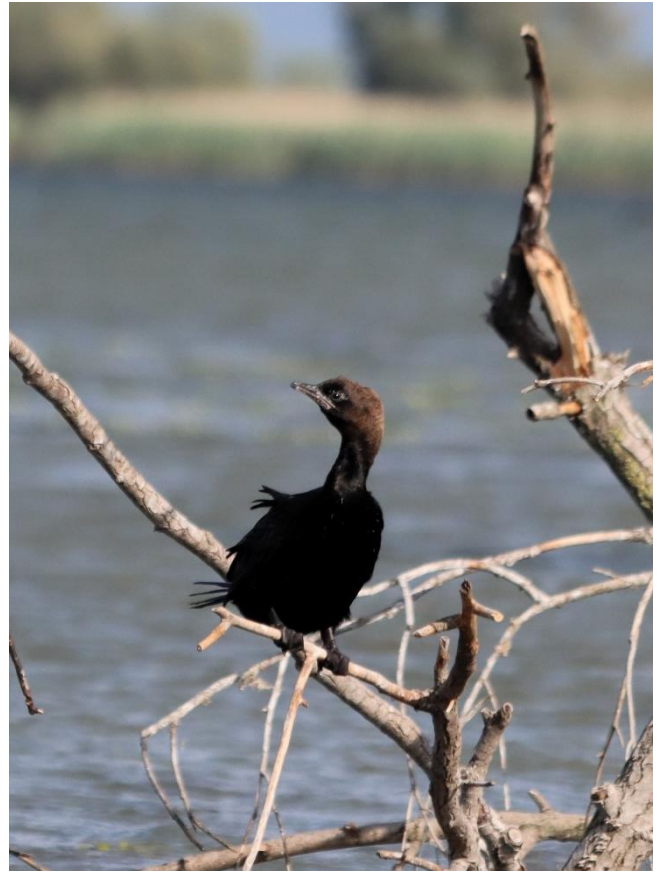
It was then time to decamp, passing the sandbank with the Caspian Gulls, Yellow-legged Gulls and dapper Pallas's Gulls, before we reached Murighiol, and George waiting to whisk us back to Bucharest. Re-crossing the Danube whose western side bore a muddy stripe from the recent flooding in Romania, we re-traced our steps westwards. There was time for a stop at Laguna Verde on the outskirts of Bucharest for a final leg stretch in view of a huge Bee-eater bank, before it was time to continue on to the airport, and our flights home.

Thank you to George and the rest of the *Kingfisher* team.

Laurie Jackson, Wildlife Travel. August 2025.



Top to bottom: Grey-headed Woodpecker (Mark Duckham); Whiskered Tern; Dunavat Channel.



Top to bottom: Bee-eater; Roller; Black Tern; Pygmy Cormorant.



Top to bottom: White-tailed Eagle; Glossy Ibis.

DANUBE DELTA 2025: some highlights

H: heard only, S: field signs

BIRDS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published in the **HBW and BirdLife International Illustrated Checklist of the Birds of the World**, as updated by www.birdsoftheworld.org

English names follow those used in the **Collins Bird Guide** (3rd edition).

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Family Anatidae (Ducks, Geese & Waterfowl)											
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>										
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>										
Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>										
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>										
Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>										
Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>										
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>										
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>										
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>										
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>										
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>										
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>										
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>										
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)											
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>										
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>										
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)											
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>										
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>										
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>										
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>										
Family Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)											
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>										
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>										
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>										
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)											
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>										
Family Apodidae (Swifts)											
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>										
Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)											
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>										

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Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>																			
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>																			
Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>																			
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>																			
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>																			
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>																			
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>																			
Family Upupidae (Hoopoes)																				
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>																			
Family Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)																				
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>																			
Family Meropidae (Bee-eaters)																				
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>																			
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)																				
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>																			
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)																				
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>																			
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>																			
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>																			
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>																			
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)																				
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>																			
Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>																			
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>																			
Family Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)																				
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>																			
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)																				
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>																			
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)																				
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>																			
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>																			
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>																			
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>																			
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>																			
Family Paridae (Tits)																				
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>																			
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>																			
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)																				
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>																			
Family Alaudidae (Larks)																				
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>																			
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>																			
Family Panuridae (Bearded Reedling)																				
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>																			

Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and allies)									
Eastern Olivaceous Warbler	<i>Iduna pallida</i>								
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>								
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>								
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>								
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>								
Family Locustellidae (Grassbirds and allies)									
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>								
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)									
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>								
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>								
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>								
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)									
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>								
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>								
Family Scotoceridae (Bush Warblers and allies)									
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>								
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)									
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>								
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)									
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>								
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>								
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>								
Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>								
Family Regulidae (Kinglets)									
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>								
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>								
Family Sittidae (Nuthatches)									
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>								
Family Certhiidae (Treecreepers)									
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>								
Family Troglodytidae (Wrens)									
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>								
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)									
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>								
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)									
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>								
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>								
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)									
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>								
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>								
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>								
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>								
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>								

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Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>																			
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>																			
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>																			
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)																				
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>																			
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>																			
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>																			
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)																				
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>																			
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>																			
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>																			
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>																			
Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)																				
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>																			
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>																			
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>																			
Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>																			
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>																			
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)																				
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>																			
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>																			

MAMMALS																				
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>																			
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>																			
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>																			
AMPHIBIANS																				
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i>																			
REPTILES																				
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>																			
Steppe Runner	<i>Eremias argute</i>																			
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>																			
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>																			
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>																			

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
COLEOPTERA: beetles											
Rose Chafer	<i>Cetonia aurata</i>										
GASTROPODA: slugs and snails											

ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Great Pond Snail	<i>Lymnaea stagnalis</i>										
HEMIPTERA: true bugs											
Firebug	<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i>										
HYMENOPTERA: ants, bees, sawflies and wasps											
European Hornet	<i>Vespa crabro</i>										
Violet Carpenter Bee	<i>Xylocopa</i> sp.										
LEPIDOPTERA: butterflies and moths											
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>										
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>										
Eastern Dappled White	<i>Euchloe ausonia</i>										
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>										
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>										
Freyer's Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura metis</i>										
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>										
Niobe Fritillary	<i>Fabriciana niobe</i>										
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>										
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>										
Adonis Blue	<i>Polyommatus bellargus</i>										
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>										
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>										
Eastern Baton Blue	<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>										
Gypsy Moth	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>										
Four-spotted	<i>Tyta luctuosa</i>										
Purple-barred	<i>Lythria purpuraria</i>										
Reed Leopard	<i>Phragmataecia castaneae</i>										
ODONATA: damselflies and dragonflies											
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>										
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>										

PLANTS

This checklist follows the taxonomy published by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew **Plants of the World Online** as updated by <https://powo.science.kew.org>

Most plant species do not have English names and even when they do, these vary according to author. A common name is given as a guide to help those who are not familiar with the scientific name. Plant families are in alphabetical order, for simplicity: the English name of a family member is also given so you can relate the family to plants you may know.

Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 23rd to 31st May 2025

SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
FERNS		
Aspleniaceae (spleenwort family)		
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
Marsileaceae (water clover family)		
<i>Marsilea quadrifolia</i>	Water Shamrock Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
DICOTYLEDONS		
Anacardiaceae (sumac family)		
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Smoke Tree	
Apiaceae (carrot family)		
<i>Berula erecta</i>	Lesser Water Parsnip Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock tall umbellifer with blotched stem, Uzlina Pond	
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly Black Sea coast	
Apocynaceae (dogbane family) (includes former Asclepiadaceae)		
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort Babadag Forest	
Asteraceae (daisy family)		
<i>Arctium</i> sp.	a burdock widespread	
<i>Artemisia cf marschalliana</i>	an artemisia Black Sea coast	
<i>Crupina vulgaris</i>	False Saw-wort	
<i>Jacobaea paludosa</i>	Fen Ragwort	
<i>Jurinea mollis</i>	Soft Thistle Babadag Forest	
<i>Petasites spurius</i>	Woolly Butterbur the large leaves, Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed Babadag Forest	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard Babadag Forest	
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot leaves, Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Rough Cocklebur with the spiky pods, widespread	
Betulaceae (birch family)		
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Common Alder	
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Oriental Hornbeam widespread	
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	Hop Hornbeam Babadag Forest	
Boraginaceae (forget-me-not family)		
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Bugloss bright blue flowers	
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Common Hound's-tongue Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Heliotropium</i> (= <i>Tournefortia</i>) <i>sibiricum</i>	Siberian Sea Rosemary Black Sea coast	
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey widespread	
Brassicaceae (cabbage family)		
<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Sea Kale Black Sea coast	
<i>Lepidium draba</i>	Hoary Cress white flowers, widespread in fields	
<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	Greater Yellow Cress widespread	
Campanulaceae (bellflower family)		

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
<i>Phyteuma spicatum</i>	Spiked Rampion	
Caryophyllaceae (carnation family)		
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly bright pink, Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Spergularia media</i>	Greater Sea-spurrey Sfântu Gheorghe	
Celastraceae		
<i>Euonymus verrucosus</i>	Rough-stemmed Spindle Babadag Forest	
Convolvulaceae (bindweed family)		
<i>Convolvulus cantabrica</i>	Cantabrian Bindweed	
Elaeagnaceae (oleaster family)		
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian Olive the spiny tree, Sfântu Gheorghe	
<i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>	Sea Buckthorn	
Euphorbiaceae (spurge family)		
<i>Euphorbia palustris</i>	Marsh Spurge widespread	
<i>Euphorbia myrsinites</i>	Myrtle Spurge Sfântu Gheorghe	
Fabaceae (pea family)		
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False Indigo shrub with deep-purple flowers, widespread	
<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Annual Scorpion Vetch tiny yellow flowers in the clearing, Babadag Forest	
<i>Galega officinalis</i>	Goats Rue	
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False-acacia widespread, invasive	
Fagaceae (beech family)		
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	White Oak Babadag Forest	
Geraniaceae (geranium family)		
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill widespread	
Haloragaceae (water milfoil family)		
<i>Myriophyllum spicatum</i>	Spiked Water Milfoil widespread	
Juglandaceae (walnut family)		
<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut widespread	
Lamiaceae (mint family)		
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine yellow flowers	
<i>Ajuga laxmannii</i>	a bugle the downy bugle, Babadag Forest	
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit Dead-nettle Lacul Saraturii	
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort widespread	
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary Enisala	
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Perennial Yellow-woundwort Babadag Forest	
<i>Thymus pannonicus</i>	Pannonian Thyme Enisala	
Linaceae (flax family)		
<i>Linum austriacum</i>	Austrian Flax Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
Lythraceae (loosestrife family)		
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water Chestnut the floating rosette	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
Menyanthaceae (bogbean family)		
<i>Nymphoides peltata</i>	Fringed Water-lily Sfântu Gheorghe	
Nymphaeaceae (water-lily family)		
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water-lily widespread	
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily widespread	
Oleaceae (olive family)		
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Ash Babadag Forest	
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash widespread	
Papaveraceae (poppy family)		
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common Fumitory Enisala	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common Poppy Enisala	
Plantaginaceae (plantain family) (includes former Globulariaceae)		
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain Black Sea coast	
Polygonaceae (dock family)		
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock widespread	
Ranunculaceae (buttercup family)		
<i>Delphinium ajacis</i>	Eastern Larkspur verges	
<i>Ranunculus aquatilis agg</i>	Water Crowfoot widespread	
Salicaceae (willow family)		
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow widespread	
<i>Salix cinerea</i>	Grey Willow widespread	
Santalaceae (sandalwood family) (includes former Viscaceae)		
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe widespread	
Solanaceae (nightshade family)		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet widespread	
Tamaricaceae (tamarisk family)		
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i>	Red Tamarisk widespread	
Tiliaceae (linden family)		
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime	
Viburnaceae (viburnum family)		
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose widespread	
MONOCOTYLEDONS		
Alismataceae (water plantain family)		
<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	Common Water-plantain widespread	
<i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i>	Arrowhead widespread	
Araceae (arum family) (includes former Lemnaceae)		
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common Duckweed widespread	
Asparagaceae (asparagus family)		
<i>Convallaria majalis</i>	Lily of the Valley Babadag Forest	
Butomaceae (flowering rush family)		
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush widespread	

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SCIENTIFIC NAME	NOTES	First seen
Iridaceae (iris family)		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	
<i>Iris sintenisii</i>	purple iris Babadag Forest	
Juncaceae (rush family)		
<i>Juncus maritimus</i>	Sea Rush Black Sea coast	
Orchidaceae (orchid family)		
<i>Anacamptis palustris</i>	Eurasian Marsh Orchid Sfântu Gheorghe marshes	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid Babadag Forest	
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Limadore Babadag Forest	
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid Babadag Forest	
Poaceae (grass family)		
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Reed Sweet-grass widespread	
<i>Phalaris arundinaceae</i>	Reed Canary-grass widespread	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed widespread	
Potamogetonaceae (pondweed family)		
<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>	Curled Pondweed	
Typhaceae (bulrush family)		
<i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Branched Bur-reed	
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Common Bulrush	
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	

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