

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

Danube Delta 2026



Danube Delta, species list and trip report, 4th to 12th May 2026

#	DATE	LOCATIONS AND NOTES
1	4 th May	Arrival in Bucharest, transfer to Amara.
2	5 th May	Lacul Amara, Giurgeni, Hârşova, Lacul Hazarlâc, Babadag Forest, Enisala, Lacul Sărăturii.
3	6 th May	Lacul Uzlina, Lacul Isacova.
4	7 th May	Travel to Sfântu Gheorghe. Walk to the Black Sea coast.
5	8 th May	Sacalin Island, Canalul Tâtaru and Sfântu Gheorghe marshes.
6	9 th May	Lacul Erenciuc, cruise to Dunavat Channel.
7	10 th May	Cruise to Uzlina, Lacul Gorgostel.
8	11 th May	Lacul Isâccel, Lacul Gorgova.
9	12 th May	Transfer to Bucharest and return to UK.

Leader

Mike Symes

Devon

Guide

George Panait

Romania

A gallery of photos from the trip is at [Danube Delta 2026 | Flickr](#)

Photos: Mike Symes (unless stated). Cover: White Pelican

Day One: 4th May. Arrival in Bucharest, transfer to Amara.

After our smooth morning flight from Heathrow, we touched down in Bucharest to be greeted by warmth and sunshine as we made our way through the terminal building to meet up with our guide George. A few minutes later we were introduced to another George (George the Second!), our driver, and soon we were heading eastwards, passing through vast agricultural plains, with oilseed rape in particular being grown in abundance.

As we progressed, a few White Storks were seen on nests and probing around in roadside fields, whilst other birds noted from the bus included Kestrel, Swallow, Hooded Crow and Yellow Wagtail.

We arrived in Amara and checked into our hotel before taking a short stroll to the nearby lake; the area was quite developed, but we did see our first Marsh Harrier, as well as hearing both Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler singing from dense undergrowth.

We then headed to the dining room where we introduced ourselves and talked about the upcoming itinerary, before tucking into a hearty Romanian dinner. Our early start was by now starting to catch up with us, so we retired to bed in readiness for tomorrow's trip to the Delta.

Day Two: 5th May. Lacul Amara, Giurgeni, Hârşova, Lacul Hazarlâc, Babadag Forest, Enisala, Lacul Sărăturii.

It was a beautiful sunny morning as we set out to explore Lacul Amara, located a very short distance away from the hotel, for some early birdwatching. Immediately we began to hear warblers singing from the reeds, though most remained hidden from view - the reeling Savi's, explosive Cetti's and the more familiar Reed and Sedge Warblers were all vying for our attention. The loud, harsh song of the Great Reed Warbler could also be heard, and we did manage to obtain views of a pair of birds at the edge of the reeds.

A vocal Cuckoo perched atop a tree across the water, and both Purple and Night Herons were seen in the area. Amongst the Pochard we picked out our first Ferruginous Ducks, with their lovely rich chestnut plumage, and a pair of Great Crested Grebes were tucked in at the side of the lake with their newly hatched chicks. We then finally managed to get sight of our main target bird, a Little Bittern, as it skulked and clambered amongst the reeds before flying across to a different area of reeds a little further away.

After this great start to the day, we headed on to Giurgeni to take a closer look at a couple of the many White Stork nests that we'd been seeing in the roadside villages. Spanish Sparrows and House Sparrows both seemed to be nesting within the huge structure, and of course we also took time to appreciate the main hosts themselves as they stood and preened in their massive nest. White Storks are welcomed by the locals as they are thought to bring good luck and prosperity, and the majority of nests in and around the villages have been built on various nesting platforms provided by the residents.

After a coffee stop at Hârşova we continued eastwards to Lacul Hazarlâc, which proved to be very productive. Our first White Pelican was seen, alongside several Great White Egrets, Glossy Ibis, Ruddy Shelduck with chicks, and a group of waders which comprised Wood Sandpiper, Ruff, and a single

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Temminck's Stint, which fed inconspicuously at the lake margin, its tiny size apparent when approached by the Wood Sandpipers which dwarfed it!

A flock of at least twenty elegant Collared Pratincoles was a great sight, as Common, Black and Whiskered Terns were to be found hawking for insects or perched on the marshy ground. Crested Lark and Black-headed Wagtail poked around for insects in the drier lake margins, and a Hoopoe called from a distant treetop on the other side of the road.

It was now time to continue our journey, so we drove on to Babadag Forest for our picnic lunch, before taking a short walk amongst the trees and open glades. The birds here were fairly quiet, with Chaffinch, Ortolan Bunting and Common Buzzards being the only species encountered, but this was made up for by a rich ground flora which included Milky, Monkey, Green-winged, Lady and Violet Bird's-nest Orchids, Solomon's Seal, *Globularia bisnagarica*, Nodding Clary, Ground Pine, Swallow-wort and some beautiful Wild Peonies.

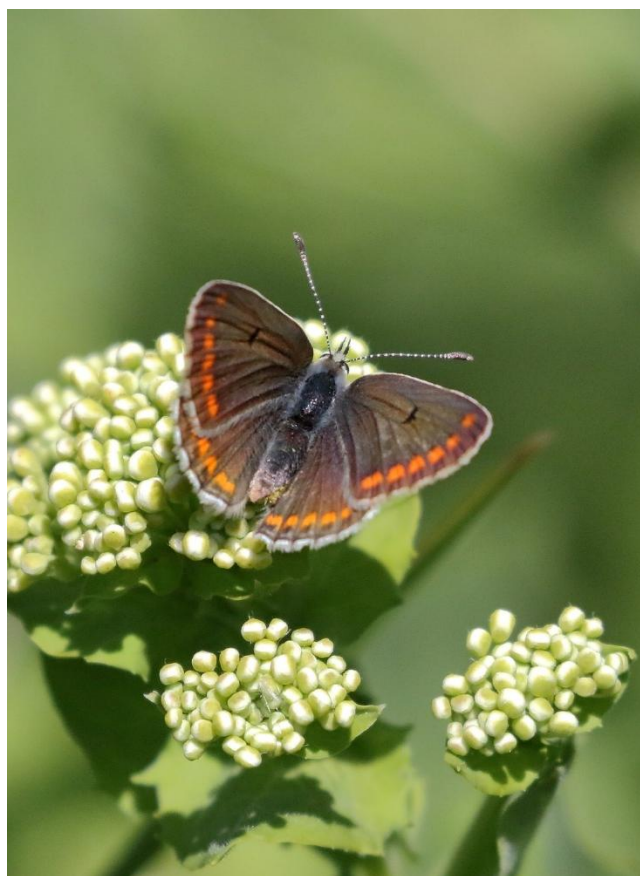
A trio of reptiles comprised Balkan Wall Lizard, a splendid male Eastern Green Lizard, and a feisty Spur-thighed Tortoise, whilst invertebrate interest was provided by Large, Small and Green-veined Whites, Orange-tip, Brown Argus and a Scarce Swallowtail, which fleetingly fluttered past as we ate our lunch. A chunky Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket was also worthy of mention, with its wonderful armoured body.

Moving onwards, we proceeded to Enisala, and to the hilltop fortress which dates from the 13th - 14th Century, with commanding views over the large Lacul Razim to the east. Several Northern Wheatear were seen around the rocky hillside, with Red-crested Pochard, Purple Heron and Ruddy Shelduck down below on the lake, which echoed to a chorus of Fire-bellied Toads and Marsh Frogs. An inquisitive European Souslik (ground squirrel) watched us with curiosity as we walked past, before scurrying for cover.

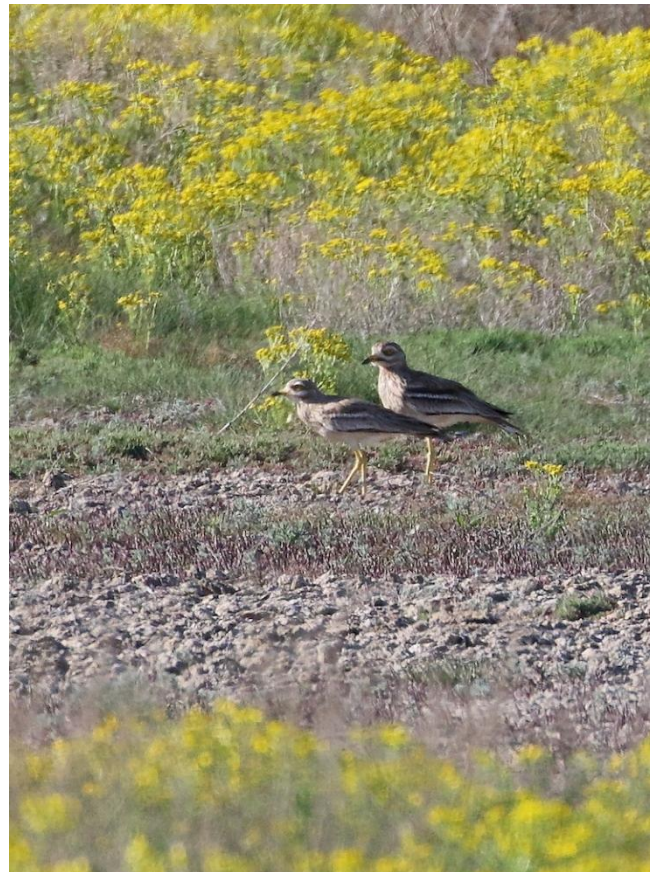
Our final stop before reaching the delta was at the saline Lacul Sărăturii, where highlights included summer plumage Ruff, Black-winged Stilt, Lapwing, Long-legged Buzzard, Blue-headed Wagtail and a pair of Stone Curlew.

We then drove the short distance to Murighiol, to load up the boats and make our way to our houseboat *Kingfisher*, moored at Uzlina. On the way to the mooring, we passed a striking local speciality, Pallas's Gull, which shared a sandbank with Caspian Gulls and Common Terns. White Pelican, Glossy Ibis and Pygmy Cormorant were also seen before we arrived at the houseboat and gathered in the dining area to enjoy a fiery local tipple and to take in the views across the water.

We discussed our many excellent sightings from the day before sampling Black Sea Herring followed by delicious local strawberries, as a Thrush Nightingale serenaded us in the background...



Top to bottom: White Stork (R. Somers Cocks); Little Bittern; Brown Argus.



Top to bottom: Wild Peony, Eastern Green Lizard, Souslik; Stone Curlew.

Day Three: 6th May. Lacul Uzlina, Lacul Isacova.

The sun shone again this morning, and some of the group spent time before breakfast on the top deck, listening to Garden Warbler, Golden Oriole, Cuckoo, Chiffchaff, Common Redstart and Penduline Tit, as Swallows flew continuously around the boat (upon which they had constructed several nests), and many Glossy Ibis and Pygmy Cormorants flew overhead.

After breakfast we headed out in the small boats to explore the Lacul Uzlina area, noting Kingfisher, Blackcap, Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Common Redstart and Chaffinch in the channel before we reached more open water; here there were several Great Crested Grebes, Mute Swans, both White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Pochard, Ferruginous Duck and large flocks of hawking Whiskered and Black Terns, feeding on insects just above the water's surface.

We spent a wonderful couple of hours or so cruising around the lake margins and connecting narrow channels, and through the reeds, where we heard Great Reed and Reed Warblers with the occasional buzz of a Savi's Warbler cutting through the cacophony of the many Marsh Frogs that were noisily betraying their presence. We were also lucky to spot a couple of Red-necked Grebes, quite wary birds, keeping a low profile amongst the lily pads.

We returned to the houseboat for lunch and a chance to relax before taking another boat trip in the late afternoon, to Lacul Isacova and its adjacent channels. In the afternoon sunshine we encountered a similar selection of species as this morning, though we also enjoyed great views of Squacco and Night Herons, fly over Cuckoo and Hobby, both male and female Marsh Harriers, a soaring Greater Spotted Eagle, and towards the end of the excursion we came across an impressive feeding flock of terns, where we were excited to pick out a few handsome White-winged Terns amongst the numerous Whiskered and Black; White-winged Tern is a migratory species which passes through the Delta on its way to breed in north-east Europe.

One or two Common Terns were also in the area, as were a small number of Little Gulls, including a smart summer plumage adult with its black hood and distinctive dark underwing. Before long it was time to return to base, where after a short break to freshen up we reconvened over a drink and dinner, to reflect upon our key bird sightings from a great day in the Delta

Day Four: 7th May. Travel to Sfântu Gheorghe. Walk to the Black Sea coast.

It was time to depart Uzlina today and head eastwards to the Black Sea coast, so after breakfast the tugboat arrived and we began our sedate progress towards Sfântu Gheorghe. As we neared the coast, the tree cover reduced and vast reedbeds became more prominent in the landscape; indeed, it was fascinating to see the character of the Delta change around us as we travelled along the Sfântu Gheorghe channel, which is the oldest and most scenic of the main channels.

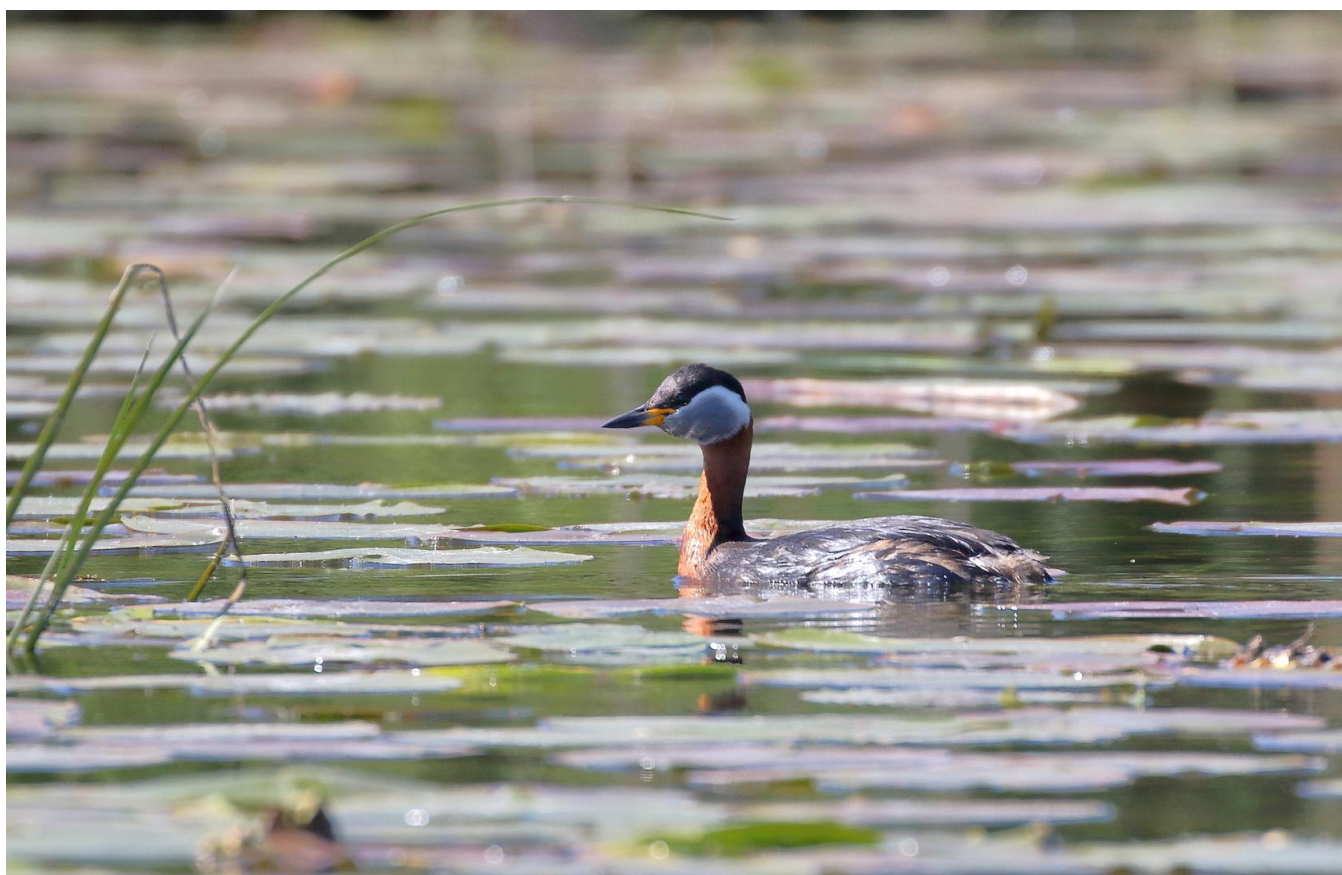
The impressively large and distinctive Pallas's Gull put in an early appearance during the morning, along with Mediterranean and Caspian Gulls, Common Tern, Lapwing, Cuckoo, Common Sandpiper, both pelicans and several Marsh Harriers, as Common Redstart, Golden Oriole, Blackcap and Thrush Nightingale sang unseen from the banks. Our first Lesser Grey Shrike was seen in an area of scattered bushes on the southern bank, and a little further on we found a small colony of brightly coloured Bee-eaters, which were busily investigating a low sandy cliff-face as a potential nesting site.

Overhead, White-tailed Eagles were seen, their enormous wingspan dwarfing the Hooded Crows which mobbed them, and enabling us to appreciate just how large these majestic raptors really are.

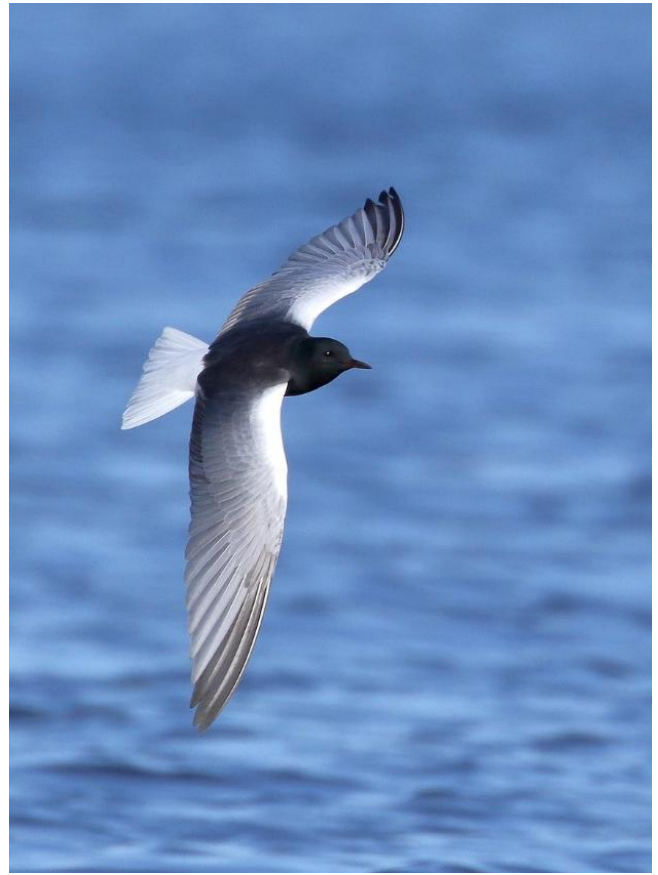
After lunch, and a chance for some respite from the fresh breeze felt on the top deck, we arrived at our mooring spot across the water from Sfântu Gheorghe. Willow Warbler, Wood Warbler and a pair of Collared Flycatchers were flitting around the bushes right next to our mooring, before we took the small boats across the channel to explore the village of Sfântu Gheorghe, where George told us a little about the history and culture of the area, and also its importance for sturgeon fishing.

A singing Black Redstart and a slithering Dice Snake kept us entertained as we walked along the sandy streets, before we reached a marshy area behind the village. Beyond the serrated leaves of Gipsywort and the aromatic Water Mint growing at our feet we noted Night Heron, Great White Egret, White Stork, Whinchat, Gadwall, Ferruginous Duck, a lovely Black-necked Grebe, and a group of Wood Sandpiper and Temminck's Stint, before we arrived at the Black Sea coast, to walk amongst the spiny Sea Holly leaves along the beach and dunes towards the mouth of the Sfântu Gheorghe channel.

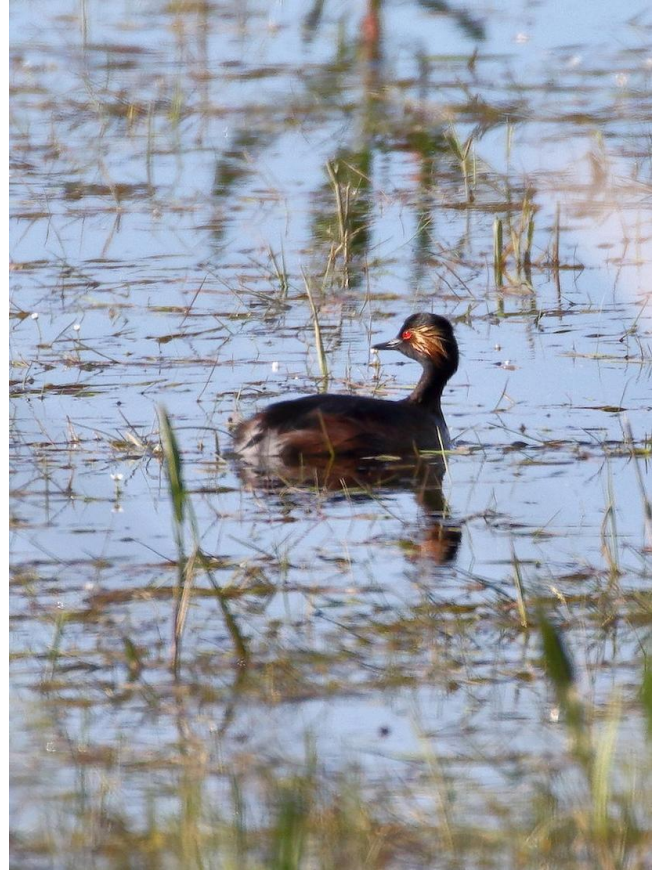
Northern Wheatear, Hoopoe and a fine male Red-backed Shrike were all found in the bushes behind the beach, as Sandwich Terns and large numbers of Great Cormorants flew past offshore. There was one final interesting wildlife sighting right at the end of our walk, in the form of a Mole Cricket, which was spotted making its way slowly across the dunes. Then it was back into the small boats, to return to the houseboat for another wonderful dinner enjoyed with a well-earned beverage or two.



Above: Red-necked Grebe



Top to bottom: Whiskered Tern (R. Somers Cocks); Squacco Heron; White-winged Black Tern.



Top to bottom: Collared Flycatcher (R. Somers Cocks); Black-necked Grebe; Pallas's Gull (R. Somers Cocks).

Day Five: 8th May. Sacalin Island, Canalul Tâtaru and Sfântu Gheorghe marshes.

It was decidedly chilly this morning, but the brave few who gathered before breakfast on the top deck were rewarded with sightings of Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pallas's Gull, Golden Oriole, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler side by side, several Marsh Harriers and a fly through Montagu's Harrier.

After coffee and a chance to warm up we headed out in the small boats along the Cainelui channel towards the coast and Sacalin Island, a relatively newly-formed area of land which is a protected nature reserve. Along the channel we saw several Cuckoos, Red-backed Shrike, Hobbies dashing across the sky, Ferruginous Duck and Marsh Harrier, whilst Reed and Savi's Warblers sang from the reeds. At one point we passed a small clump of trees by the water's edge which supported a colony of Night Herons, which lurked mostly in the shady interior but occasionally came out into the open or were observed flying across the channel. A nice surprise nearby was the discovery of a male Red-breasted Flycatcher flitting about in a low willow tree, though unfortunately it only afforded the briefest of views as we cruised slowly past.

As we neared the coast, the channel gave way to an open coastal marsh where White Pelicans were numerous, and could be seen at close range, as we also noted a few Dalmatian Pelicans, with their rather more drab colouration and less contrasting plumage. It was fantastic to see these huge birds right in front of us, surely one of the most iconic species to be found in the Delta.

Grey Heron and Great White Egret stalked through the shallow water, along with a variety of waders which included Ruff, Wood Sandpiper, Temminck's Stint and a boldly marked summer plumage Spotted Redshank. Black, Whiskered and Sandwich Terns flew overhead, and a juvenile White-tailed Eagle took off from its low perch as we approached, flying away with powerful wingbeats across the water.

We also heard the rather eerie howling calls of a group of Golden Jackals, an animal which is spreading across the Delta and increasing in numbers year on year; time will tell what impact the arrival of this species will have on the wider fauna of the Delta, though there are some concerns regarding the effect they may have on ground-nesting birds and other mammals in the surrounding area.

Due to the shallow water, it was not possible to land on Sacalin Island, so after going as far as we could out into the lagoon, we turned around and retraced our route back up the channel, adding Lesser Whitethroat and Reed Bunting to our growing list, before arriving at the houseboat, where a Spotted Flycatcher caught our attention as we waited to disembark the small boats.

We finally managed to see a Golden Jackal whilst waiting for lunch to be prepared, as one trotted through the scrub adjacent to the houseboat, no doubt with lunch on its mind too...

Feeling sated from our meal, we took the small boats across the channel to a narrow canal to the west of Sfântu Gheorghe, before walking back along the bank and ending up in the village. Several Lesser Whitethroats were seen in trees alongside the track, eventually giving good views and occasionally uttering their rattling song. Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Red-backed Shrike were also present in the area, as was a fine Ortolan Bunting, which was relatively confiding and reluctant to leave its favoured feeding area.

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Our attention was then drawn to some reedmace at the canal margin, where a pair of Bearded Tits were glimpsed moving their way through the dense tangle of vegetation - though they always stopped short of revealing themselves fully to their crowd of admirers. Hobby and Marsh Harrier hunted overhead, as the adjacent marshland held Black-winged Stilt, Lapwing and Spotted Redshank, with Ferruginous Duck, Red-crested Pochard, Common Shelduck and Ruddy Shelduck on the open water.

Casting our eyes downwards, Common Blue, Brown Argus and Small Heath butterflies flew between flowers low to the ground, and Marsh and Edible Frogs croaked in the shallows. The reddish-purple flowers of Common Hound's-tongue were seen growing near the track, as were the delicate pink Sand Catchfly, the large patches of Butterbur leaves on the canal bank with their white hairy undersides, and the erect light green fronds of Marsh Fern in some of the damper spots.

As we neared the end of the walk, a Hoopoe flew past us, with Northern Wheatear, Reed Warbler, Goldfinch and Tree Sparrow all noted before we reached the jetty to clamber aboard the small boats once more and return to the houseboat. After some time to freshen up, we gathered to reflect on the day's sightings, and also notched up our fourth flycatcher species of the trip as a male Pied Flycatcher showed well in the low trees beside our mooring. The day was rounded off nicely with a satisfying dinner, with the chocolate ice cream dessert being particularly well appreciated!

Day Six: 9th May. Lacul Erenciuc, cruise to Dunavat Channel.

Today we began our return trip westwards along the Sfântu Gheorghe channel, spending a relaxing few hours in the morning watching the birds from the top deck of the houseboat. Several Cuckoos were seen, and we also had great views of a pair of Hobbies perched in a tree beside the channel. Black-headed Bunting was a new species for the trip, and the extensive reedbeds echoed to the reeling song of Savi's Warbler, interspersed with Reed Warbler, with Chiffchaff, Common Redstart, Nightingale and Lesser Whitethroat singing from the more wooded areas.

We finally managed to see Grey-headed Woodpecker, which had been very vocal throughout the trip but had thus far eluded us, and we also savoured views of another Pallas's Gull which flew alongside the boat - it was great to see this rare bird so well. As we progressed along the channel, we could also appreciate the bell-shaped white flowers of Summer Snowflake and the purple Common Comfrey which were growing along the banks, as well as the yellowish-green Marsh Spurge, which was seen growing in tall patches at the edge of the reeds.

After a while we arrived at the southern end of Lacul Erenciuc, where we took the small boats out to explore this narrow waterbody. Purple Heron, Pygmy and Great Cormorants, both pelicans and many Mute Swans were observed, along with Ferruginous Duck, Pochard, several Great Crested Grebes and an elusive Red-necked Grebe that hid amongst the floating vegetation at the far end of the lake. Reed Warbler, Reed Bunting and Bearded Tit were all noted in the reedbeds, mostly remaining hidden from view but occasionally showing briefly, as Black and Whiskered Terns flew overhead.

We then returned to the houseboat for lunch, before spending the afternoon continuing our slow and steady journey along the main channel, with plenty of time for birdwatching or simply relaxing in the comfortable dining room. White-tailed Eagles, Goldeneye and a bankside colony of fabulous

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Bee-eaters provided the ornithological highlights, before we reached our mooring spot in front of the Dunavat channel.

Once the crew had safely secured the houseboat to some bankside trees, we decided to stretch our legs by strolling along the riverbank, where brief views of Common Redstart, Golden Oriole and Grey-headed Woodpecker were obtained, and we also paused to enjoy a dainty Clouded Border moth, which was disturbed from the low trees as we walked past. By now light rain had set in, so we returned to the boat to dry off, before meeting again for dinner and a welcome glass of wine.

Day Seven: 10th May. Cruise to Uzlina, Lacul Gorgostel.

The persistent rain which had been forecast duly arrived this morning, so we decided to delay our small boat trip until the afternoon, when it would hopefully clear up. Instead we took the opportunity to travel back to Uzlina, where we moored again at our original spot, from where we had begun our adventure on the Delta several days before. During the journey back, George brought us a spectacular Giant Peacock Moth which had been found at the back of the boat; being the largest European moth, it was a very impressive discovery and was much photographed by the group!

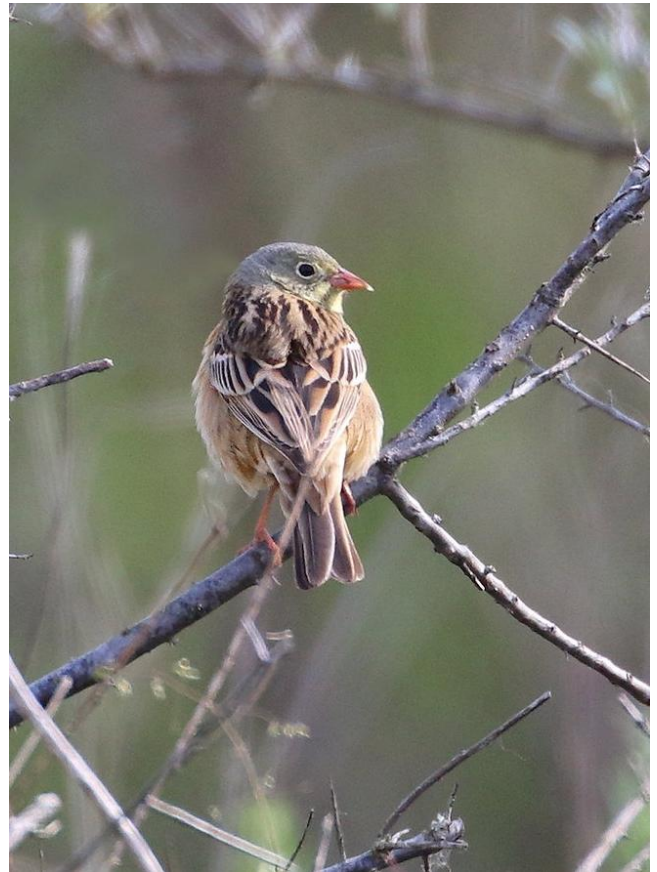
The songs of Thrush Nightingale, Common Redstart, Cuckoo and Golden Oriole welcomed us back to Uzlina, along with some enthusiastic local dogs, and after a rather decadent meal of soup, lamb and homemade tiramisu we set off to explore Lacul Gorgostel and its neighbouring waterways.

Thankfully the rain eased off, and we spent the next three hours travelling around this peaceful wildlife haven. Great Crested and a few Red-necked Grebes were seen, together with Common, Black and Whiskered Terns, Squacco, Purple and Night Herons, Hobby, Cuckoo, Dalmatian Pelican, Pochard, lots of Ferruginous Duck and a couple of distant White-tailed Eagles.

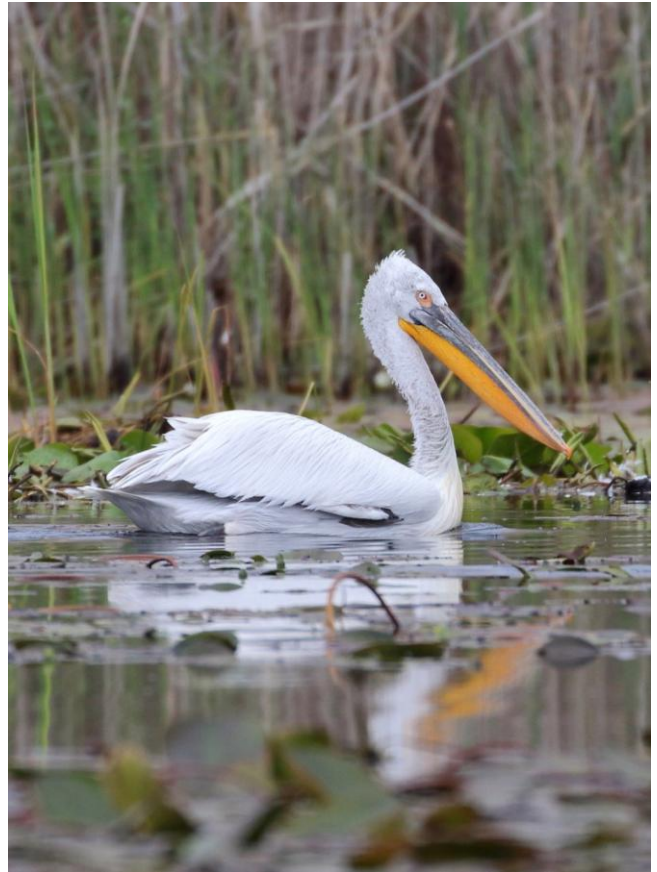
Three Whimbrel flying over the lake were new for the trip, as the now familiar songs of Savi's, Reed and Great Reed Warblers emanated from the reedbeds. A Kingfisher zipped along the channel in front of us, a Grey-headed Woodpecker perched in a treetop, and both Bearded Tit and Reed Bunting occasionally showed themselves at the edge of the reeds.

White and Yellow Water-lily flowers were just starting to open up, forming extensive patches around the lake margins, and as the sun burst through the clouds the Marsh Frogs seemed to rejoice, filling the air with a chorus of loud croaking that lasted for a few minutes before quietening down again. We also noticed several larvae of the Gypsy Moth, which were happily munching their way through the white willow leaves in one of the narrow channels.

We then returned to the houseboat with time to relax, before the now customary evening combination of checklists and dinner.



Top to bottom: Night Heron; White-tailed Eagle; Ortolan Bunting.



Top to bottom: Hobby; Dalmatian Pelican; Bee-eater.

Day Eight: 11th May. Lacul Isâccel, Lacul Gorgova.

It was a beautiful sunny morning on the Delta, and the early risers enjoyed sightings of Kingfisher, Golden Oriole, Glossy Ibis, Garden Warbler, Pallas's Gull, Cuckoo and several heron species from the top deck of the houseboat. A Wryneck was heard singing nearby, before it was glimpsed flying away and out of sight behind our mooring.

After breakfast we headed out in the small boats to explore the Lacul Isâccel area, where we spent time slowly cruising around the channels and reed-fringed lakes, noting the Marsh Frogs which adorned several of the lily pads. We had nice views of a singing Common Redstart, a species which can be difficult to see despite being so numerous here, as well as Hobby overhead and the usual selection of birds on the lakes including Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Pygmy Cormorant, Great Crested, Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes (the former grebe being by far the easiest to see), and numerous Whiskered and Black Terns which were busily Hoovering up the abundant midges - though not quite quickly enough for our liking!

We also witnessed a feeding frenzy of White Pelicans, gathered together in a tight flock on the water, beating their wings and gulping down as many fish as they could. The pelicans were accompanied by Pygmy Cormorants, which also benefited from the commotion and confusion amongst the fish, and along the bank Grey, Night and Squacco Herons lined up alongside Little Egrets, waiting their turn to get in on the action.

Following lunch and a break to relax on the houseboat, a few of us took a short walk in the area of woods, pools and scrub behind our mooring. A Thrush Nightingale showed well to some of the group, though it was still tricky to pick out amongst the trees and before long it disappeared again, leaving us hungry for more... but it was great to hear its remarkably powerful song at close range. An Icterine Warbler was also heard singing nearby, with its distinctive rather nasal, squeaky tone, and carrying on further to a wetland area we found European Pond Terrapins, Marsh Frog, calling Fire-bellied Toads, Blue-tailed Damselfly and a couple of Hairy Dragonflies.

We then set out again one last time to explore another part of the Delta, this time visiting the Lacul Gorgova area. The highlights of the excursion comprised views of a massive White-tailed Eagle flying down the narrow waterway in front of us, somehow appearing to be even larger within the confined space of the channel, and large flocks of White Pelicans and Pygmy Cormorants on the lake. The star bird for many was a stunning Roller, perching accommodately for some time so that we could really appreciate its wonderful colours.

All too soon it was time to return to the houseboat for one last dinner together, and to discuss our favourite moments and most memorable wildlife encounters of the trip. We thanked George and the boat crew for their warm hospitality, and for looking after us so well during our time on the Danube Delta.

Day Nine: 12th May. Transfer to Bucharest and return to UK.

Golden Oriole, Wryneck and Thrush Nightingale were singing this morning as we departed the houseboat and transferred to Murighiol to be met by George the Second, our trusty driver. From here we began our journey westwards towards Bucharest, noting a few Corn Buntings and Rollers on

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the roadside telegraph wires, and also some Bee-eaters at a cliff-face colony - though Starlings seemed to have taken over the majority of nest holes...

We retraced our steps back through Saraiu and revisited Lacul Hazarlâc to see if any new birds had arrived; there was a similarly rich assemblage as before, and we managed to add Spoonbill, Avocet and Curlew Sandpiper to our trip list. A stop for coffee/ice cream and facilities at the petrol station in Hârșova was enlivened by the discovery of a Poplar Hawk-moth in a small bush next to the bus - it's always worth keeping your eyes open for wildlife, wherever you are!

We then had some miles to cover, so we continued towards the airport, and on to our homeward bound flight, arriving back in the UK to reflect on what had been a highly enjoyable and successful holiday.

Mike Symes, Wildlife Travel. June 2026.



Above: White Pelican (R. Somers Cocks).



Top to bottom: Thrush Nightingale; Roller; Danube Delta.

DANUBE DELTA 2026: 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>										◆
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>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>							◆			
Family Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse and allies)											
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			◆	◆	H	H	◆	H		
Family Podicipedidae (Grebes)											
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)											
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia (domest.)</i>		◆	◆		◆	◆				◆
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		◆	◆		◆			◆	◆	◆
Family Cuculidae (Cuckoos)											
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules and Coots)											
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>				H						
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Family Burhinidae (Thick-knees)											
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>			◆							
Family Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)											
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>			◆			◆				◆

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Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>										◆
Family Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)											
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			◆		◆	◆				
Family Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and allies)											
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>								◆		
Ruff	<i>Calidris pugnax</i>			◆			◆				◆
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										◆
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>			◆		◆	◆				◆
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>			◆		◆	◆				◆
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>					◆					
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						◆				
Family Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)											
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>			◆							◆
Family Laridae (Gulls, Terns and Skimmers)											
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>				◆					◆	
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus melanocephalus</i>					◆					
Pallas's Gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>		◆	◆		◆					◆
Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				◆						
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>					◆	◆				
Family Ciconiidae (Storks)											
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>			◆		◆					◆
Family Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)											
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmaeus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns)											
White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>				◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Ardeidae (Hérons, Egrets and Bitterns)											
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>			◆							
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆		◆	◆	
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	

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Family Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)											
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>										◆
Family Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles and Kites)											
Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga clanga</i>				◆						
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>						◆				
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>					◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>			◆							
Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</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>			◆		◆	H	◆		◆	◆
Family Coraciidae (Rollers)											
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>									◆	◆
Family Picidae (Woodpeckers)											
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>									◆	H
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			H	◆		◆	◆		H	
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>				H	H		◆	◆	◆	H
Family Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)											
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>			◆			◆	◆	◆		◆
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)											
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				H	◆	◆	◆	H	◆	H
Family Laniidae (Shrikes)											
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>					◆	◆	◆		◆	
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>					◆					
Family Corvidae (Crows, Jays and Magpies)											
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>			H	H	H	H	H	H	◆	
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>			◆	◆	H	H	◆	H	◆	
Family Remizidae (Penduline Tits)											
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>				H	H		H		H	
Family Alaudidae (Larks)											

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Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>			◆							
Family Panuridae (Bearded Reedling)											
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>				H		◆	◆	◆	H	
Family Acrocephalidae (Reed Warblers and allies)											
Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>									◆	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			H							
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>			H	H	H	◆	◆	◆	◆	
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>			◆	H	H	H	H	◆	◆	
Family Locustellidae (Grassbirds and allies)											
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>			H	H	H	H	H	H	H	
Family Hirundinidae (Swallows)											
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>			◆	◆	◆			◆	◆	
Family Phylloscopidae (Leaf Warblers)											
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>			H		◆	◆	◆			
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>			H	H	H	◆	◆	H	H	
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>					◆					
Family Scotoceridae (Bush Warblers and allies)											
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>		H	H							
Family Aegithalidae (Long-tailed Tits)											
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				H			◆		◆	
Family Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers and allies)											
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				H	H	◆	◆	H	H	
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				H	H			H	◆	
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Curruca curruca</i>						◆	H	◆		
Family Sturnidae (Starlings)											
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Turdidae (Thrushes and allies)											
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>			◆	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)											
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>						◆				
Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>			H	H	H		H	H	◆	H
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	H		H	H	H			
Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>						◆				
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>						◆				
Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>					◆					
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				◆	H	H	◆	◆	◆	
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>					◆					
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>					◆					
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			◆		◆	◆				
Family Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)											

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House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		◆	◆		◆	◆		◆	◆	◆
Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>			◆							
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		◆	◆			◆	◆	◆	◆	
Family Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)											
Blue-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>		◆	◆			◆				
Black-headed Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>			◆							
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba alba</i>			◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Family Fringillidae (Finches and allies)											
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>			◆	◆	H		H	H	◆	
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>					H	◆	◆			
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>					◆	◆		◆	◆	
Family Emberizidae (Buntings)											
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>										◆
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>							◆	◆	◆	
Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>			H			◆				
Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>							◆			

H = Heard only

MAMMALS											
Golden Jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>						◆				
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>		◆								
European Souselik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>		◆								

AMPHIBIANS											
Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>			H		H	H	H		H	
Marsh Frog	<i>Pelophylax ridibunda</i>			H	◆	◆	◆	H	◆	◆	H
Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax kl. esculenta</i>						H	H			

REPTILES											
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>			◆						◆	
Spur-thighed Tortoise	<i>Testudo graeca</i>		◆								
Eastern Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta bilineata</i>		◆								
Balkan Wall Lizard	<i>Podarcis taurica</i>		◆								
Dice Snake	<i>Natrix tessellata</i>		◆	◆	◆					◆	

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ENGLISH NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	notes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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LEPIDOPTERA: butterflies and moths

Scarce Swallowtail	<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>			◆							
Orange-tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>			◆							
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>			◆	◆					◆	
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>			◆							
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>			◆							
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>						◆				
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>			◆			◆				
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>									◆	
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>				◆						
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>			◆			◆				
Purple-barred Yellow	<i>Lythria purpuraria</i>			◆							
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>							◆			
Giant Peacock Moth	<i>Saturnia pyri</i>								◆		
Gypsy Moth (larvae)	<i>Lymantria dispar</i>								◆		
Poplar Hawk-moth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>										◆
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>			◆		◆					

ODONATA: damselflies and dragonflies

Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>										◆
Hairy Dragonfly	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>										◆

Miscellaneous invertebrates

Bronze Glandular Bush-cricket	<i>Bradyporus dasypus</i>			◆							
Mole Cricket	<i>Gryllotalpa</i> sp.					◆					

SELECTED PLANTS			
SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	Notes	First seen
FERNS			
<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	Marsh Fern	Alongside the marsh on the walk back to Sfantu Gheorghe	Day 5
DICOTYLEDONS			
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea Holly	On the beach at Sfantu Gheorghe	Day 4
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Common Hound's-tongue	Red/purple flowers	Day 5
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Common Comfrey	Purple flowers, along channel	Day 4
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	Sfantu Gheorghe, sandy areas	Day 4
<i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Butterbur	Large leaves along canal bank	Day 5
<i>Euphorbia palustris</i>	Marsh Spurge	Tall, clump-forming, along channel	Day 3
<i>Ajuga chamaepitys</i>	Ground Pine	Low-growing, yellow flowers; at Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort	Sfantu Gheorghe marsh	Day 4
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Sfantu Gheorghe marsh	Day 4
<i>Salvia nutans</i>	Nodding Clary	Purple flowers, at Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water-lily	Widespread in the delta	Day 3
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	Yellow Water-lily	Widespread in the delta	Day 3
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash	Creamy-white flowers; at Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>	Wild Peony	Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Globularia bisnagarica</i>		Rounded purple flowerheads; at Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Water Dock	Widespread in the delta	Day 3
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	Widespread in the delta	Day 2
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	Widespread in the delta	Day 2
<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe	Along Sfantu Gheorghe channel	Day 4
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	Widespread in the delta	Day 4
<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	French Tamarisk	Open, drier areas near coast	Day 4

MONOCOTYLEDONS			
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's Seal	Shady areas in Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Leucojum aestivum</i>	Summer Snowflake	At our mooring at Sfantu Gheorghe	Day 4
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water Soldier	Aquatic plant; at Sfantu Gheorghe	Day 5
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag	Widespread in the delta	Day 5
<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet Birds-nest Orchid	Still in bud; at Babadag Forest	Day 2
<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady Orchid	Beautiful flower spikes; at Babadag	Day 2
<i>Orchis simia</i>	Monkey Orchid	Near picnic spot at Babadag	Day 2

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<i>Orchis lactea</i>	Milky Orchid	Single specimen at Babadag	Day 2
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Near picnic spot at Babadag	Day 2
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Abundant in the delta	Day 2

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