



# Honeyguide

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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**Danube Delta  
6 – 13 June 2019**

## Holiday participants

John and Jan Croft  
David and Sandra Barnard  
Angela Turner

Sue Montgomery  
Alistair and Tonia Haworth



The Danube at Tulcea (TS).

## Leaders

This holiday is run in partnership with Ibis Tours [www.ibis-tours.ro](http://www.ibis-tours.ro).  
The leaders from Ibis were Eugen Petrescu in the Delta and botanist Mihai Petrescu in Dobrogea.  
Honeyguide leader: Tim Strudwick

Report by Tim Strudwick. Photos by John Croft and Tim Strudwick  
Cover: white pelicans in flight and at rest (JC).



The group on board the Ibis floating hotel (TS).

As with all Honeyguide holidays, part of the price was put towards a local conservation project, in this case for Falco Cherrug ('the saker'), a young naturalists' group which is providing the delta's conservationists for the future. The group is run by Eugen Petrescu, the Romanian Ornithological Society's representative in the delta and one of our holiday leaders from Ibis.

The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, resulting in a donation of £370. This brings the total given in Romania since the first Honeyguide holiday here in 1999 to £7182. As at September 2019 the total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 is £133,762.

## DAILY DIARY

### Thursday 6 June – Bucharest to Tulcea

The 08:30 flight from Stansted arrived at a warm and humid Bucharest airport just after lunch. After collecting baggage, we located Ioanna of Ibis Tours who led us to the waiting bus. We were soon on our way through the Bucharest suburbs then eastwards through the flat agricultural plains of south-east Romania. Farming was intensive, with huge fields of barley, sunflowers and peas, but here and there swathes of purple eastern larkspur and red poppies among the crops and single tethered cows grazing road verges indicated less modern farming methods. Except for the occasional white stork, roadside birdlife was unremarkable. After a break at a service station at Slobozia (ice-creams all round!), we pressed on, crossing the Danube near Giurgeni. We were now in the region of Dobrogea and the landscape was more rolling and more interesting birds started to appear. Ioanna pointed out roller, bee-eater, little owl and glossy ibis near the roadside. We eventually arrived at the small port town of Tulcea, where we found our leader, Eugen Petrescu, waiting for us at the quay. After introductions, we said goodbye to Ioanna and boarded the 'floating hotel' – our home for the next few days.

After finding our rooms and a quick shower, we assembled for a tasty and filling three course dinner. After eating, Eugen talked us through our likely routes through the delta over the next few days with the help of a wall map. We learnt that heavy rain in Central Europe over the last few days had increased the level of the lower Danube by 1.5m! It had been a long day travelling and soon after dinner we all headed to bed.

### Friday 7 June – Danube Delta

We awoke to bright sunshine, and the early risers out on the deck gazed out over the river scene. The Tulcea branch of the Danube was easily 250m wide here, with some impressively large river cruise ships moored nearby and the skyline dominated by the huge cranes of the shipyards. The brown swirling waters of the river carried rafts of flood-borne debris, both organic (logs, timber, vegetation) and inorganic (plastic litter), attended by black-headed and Caspian gulls.

After breakfast (a formidable selection of meats, eggs, cheeses, salad, fruit, cereal, yoghurt and honey) we left our 'hotel', boarded the dayboat and set off downstream. The main river channel was lined with hybrid poplars and Canadian ash and busy with boat traffic of all shapes and sizes, but soon we took a quiet side channel to the north and immediately felt we were in the delta. The waterside white willows and white poplars were full of birdsong and as the boat moved slowly we identified the chatter of garden, icterine and olivaceous warblers, chiffchaff, blackcap and thrush or common nightingale (possibly both). With the recent flooding, the trees stood in water and it felt like we were in a huge flooded forest but, Eugen explained, the belt of trees was only 100-200m wide on the silt-deposited alluvium carried by the Danube.



Roller was seen on the journey to Tulcea: white-tailed eagle near a nest (JC).

Within our first hour we must have seen more than 20 kingfishers, clearly a very numerous bird in the delta, but sadly particularly badly affected by the flooding with most nests now underwater. As we progressed deeper into the delta, the silt-laden water began to clear. In places crystal clear water merged with the silt-laden Danube water. Eugen explained that the wetlands of the delta cleaned the Danube water of sediment, at the same time feeding the delta with minerals. With the clearer water, fish-eating birds started to appear on waterside trees and bushes – squacco and night herons, great and pygmy cormorants and common terns.

Gradually, the tree cover diminished and vast reedbeds extended as far as the eye could see. The channel was now fringed with reed and lesser reedmace, where a little bittern and a singing great reed warbler both provided excellent views. Cuckoos were everywhere, sometimes with four or more visible at the same time. Our first pelicans were distant, in flight, but soon we encountered a single white pelican in a small pool. While raptors had been oddly absent in the wooded areas, marsh harriers were abundant in the open wetland and we picked up two white-tailed eagles flying distantly. To our great surprise, our boat passed close to a white-tailed eagle nest, with two juveniles perched above the nest and an adult calling nearby. There were other boats around, and we did not linger for fear of attracting attention to this nest since bird protection is not well policed in the delta.

Our route took us through several small pools and lakes where water lilies, water soldier and the non-native water chestnut carpeted the surface. Here we found several red-necked and black-necked grebes, ferruginous duck, garganey, whiskered terns and, on the bigger lakes, small groups of white and dalmatian pelicans. Dragon- and damselflies were everywhere though not easy to observe closely from the boat, but certainly included banded demoiselle, large red damsel and lesser emperor. Just before lunch we came to a cattle-grazed area, where great white egret and glossy ibis fed in shallow open pools and rollers hunted from trees and fences. We then re-joined the main Sulina channel and our floating hotel, which had been moved to meet us and where a sumptuous lunch awaited. As we dined we digested the morning's wildlife experiences.

After lunch it was time for relaxed birding from the upper deck, or a nap, while the tug towed us downstream. We passed by a large fishpond where a constant stream of purple herons commuted to and from their nests, protected by banks from flooding. We then turned around and headed back upstream then turned off southwards into the 'marine delta', built on windblown sand and marine sediments. This was a very open landscape of grassland and reeds, with different birds from earlier in the day - spoonbill, glossy ibis, black-winged stilts and lapwing feeding in cattle-grazed shallow pools.

By mid-afternoon we had reached our night stop, and we boarded the dayboat to explore the area. Almost immediately Eugen heard a black woodpecker nearby, and we carefully approached then climbed onto the bank. The woodpecker appeared low down on a mature willow and proceeded to play peek-a-boo but eventually showed well to the entire group.

Back on the boat we carried on a little way where bearded tits called and Savi's and reed warblers sang from the reeds and provided brief views. As we left the lake, a grey-headed woodpecker flew low over the boat and a second bird then joined it in willow scrub. We spent another hour exploring smaller channels to the east through grazed marshes, yellow with fen ragwort. Highlights included rollers, pygmy cormorants, several red-footed falcons and hobby. As we headed back to the big boat, two or three Pallas's gulls flew over us, heading to roost.

There was just time for a beer and wildlife log call before a dinner of fish (perch) and then sleep to the sound of the frog chorus.



White pelicans (JC).



Pallas's gull (also known as great black-headed gull) (JC).

### **Saturday 8 June – Danube Delta**

At breakfast the talk was of the nocturnal frog chorus, but early risers also reported little crane and golden oriole singing near the boat. We boarded the dayboat and headed south to the village of Caraorman. As we passed down the dead straight man-made channel we met with a good flock of glossy ibis, a family of bearded tits and, overhead, spectacular flocks of white pelicans. We moored up and left the boat, stopping to watch a group of black-tailed godwits in a flooded field and bee-eaters on wires around a small colony near the village. Caraorman is notable for a failed mineral extraction facility dating from the Ceausescu era, where the ruined factory buildings and crumbling workers' flats were now occupied by cattle and feral pigeons. We wandered south from the village to explore some lagoons, finding an interesting mix of waterbirds including spoonbill, collared pratincoles, shelduck, wood sandpiper and redshank (at the southern limit of their breeding range). Thistles on the lagoon banks attracted many hundred painted lady butterflies and two large mammoth wasps. Back on the boat, we explored more waterways, passing a small nature reserve that Eugen had personally set up many years before, and onto the enormous Lake Puiu. Here we found more ferruginous duck, Dalmatian pelican, a fine adult Pallas's gull and had wonderful views of a nest-building penduline tit. Retracing our route, we returned to the big boat for lunch which we ate while the tug towed us northwards.

After crossing the Sulina channel, we re-joined the dayboat to explore more small channels and lakes in the northern half of the delta. Through the afternoon we watched numerous kingfishers, heard several Savi's warblers and a booming bittern and crossed the large Lacul Bogdaproste, filled with whiskered and black terns and both pelicans. Some rain was forecast during the afternoon and the sky steadily became a darker and darker shade of grey until inevitably the first drops fell. Within seconds the drops had become a torrent, visibility deteriorated, and strong winds drove us to moor up in a sheltered channel. We stayed huddled under the boat canopy for an hour, although horizontal rain ensured that not everybody was able to stay entirely dry. When the storm passed, we crossed Lacul Trei Lezere and came to a confluence of three channels, deep in the strictly protected part of the delta, where we were pleased to find our big boat was moored.

After warming showers and dinner, Eugen showed us some images and videos of the delta in winter taken by him and his son Daniel – a cold and icy place where pelicans must steal fish from cormorants to survive and the entire world population of red-breasted geese gather.

### **Sunday 9 June – Danube Delta**

We awoke to bright sunshine and, over breakfast, reports were exchanged of frogs, a booming bittern in the early hours, and two white-tailed eagles over the boat.

As we assembled to board the dayboat, swallowtail and large copper fluttered past and a Savi's warbler sang nearby. Our morning excursion took us north to the edge of the huge area of drained land that fills the north-west corner of the delta. We followed the channel along the edge of this very different landscape and were able to get off the boat (involving walking the plank) in a couple of places. Among the scrub on the dry banks we found red-backed shrikes and had the opportunity to look at a few insects including large copper, wartbiter bush-crickets and scarlet darters. We saw several red-footed falcons, hobbies, lesser grey shrike and green sandpiper and had great views of an olivaceous warbler.

Turning south again we passed through a lake with a few black terns nesting on rafts of water lilies, and water soldier and pelican flocks, and our morning excursion ended with a great finale: a spectacular colony of whiskered terns which we were able to watch at close quarters.

We met up with the big boat and ate lunch while they pulled us slowly back upstream. We were enjoying our meal when we passed the white-tailed eagle nest we had seen on day one, with both juveniles again perched by the nest. The rest of the afternoon was spent quietly chugging back upstream, providing an opportunity to watch the delta go by, with more sightings of white-tailed eagle and a black stork, and a damselfly photographed on the boat window appeared to be willow damselfly, very much on the south-eastern edge of its range here. Others of the group chose to read, write up notes or take a nap. By the early evening we had arrived back at Tulcea. The Danube was still flowing strongly and the process of manoeuvring our floating hotel back into its mooring was a delicate one. Once we were moored up, it was time for packing, drinks and wildlife log before our last dinner and night on board.



Whiskered tern by its floating nest (TS).

### Monday 10 June – Dobrogea

We packed our bags and after breakfast said farewell to the team of 7 staff who had looked after us so well for the last 3 days, left the boat and boarded a minibus for the next stage of the trip on the solid ground of Dobrogea.

We had been joined by Mihai Petrescu, an expert in the flora of the region. Mihai explained the diverse ethnic mix of this region which has left many villages dominated by Turks, Tartars, Ukrainians or other groups. We drove through the Tulcea Hills, rolling land with fields of wheat and maize, with rollers, red-backed shrikes and corn bunting on roadside perches. Our first stop was in a quarry where a very pale-headed perched raptor was quickly identified as a long-legged buzzard. Around the quarry we found pied and northern wheatears, lesser grey shrike, tawny pipit and ortolan. Mihai pointed out some of the local steppe flora, including Hungarian thyme, a mullein *Verbascum banaticum* and thistle *Carduus thoermeri*.

We drove on westwards, with a short stop at some grassy hills where we saw a hunting booted eagle and a few sousliks. Moving on, some had brief views of golden oriole, roller and possibly Syrian woodpecker from the bus. We came to an area of forest, once protected by the Ottoman administration to ensure a supply of honey which was sent to Istanbul, where we stopped at a wooded hillside. Eugen soon located two middle-spotted woodpeckers which played cat and mouse, flying from tree to tree (downy oak, greyish oak and wild pear) providing reasonable, if brief, views to many of the group. Two more long-legged buzzards drifted overhead.

A few miles farther on we came to Celic Dere Monastery where we walked alongside a stream. Here we saw a few hawfinches (coming to drink), middle-spotted woodpecker again and red-backed shrike. It was now very hot and the cool shade of the lime and hornbeam forest was very welcome. Under the trees, icterine and wood warbler and red-breasted flycatcher sang though only provided the briefest of views. Nuthatches and wryneck called, and two black kites drifted over the trees.

We drove on to the Macin Hills National Park where we headed to a shady picnic spot. Isabelline wheatear and crested lark were conspicuous on the short-grazed steppe where we parked the bus. We ate our picnic lunches under Eastern hornbeam and Turkish cherry trees, sharing the shade with a birdwatching group from Bulgaria. We drove on through some over-grazed steppe where we saw more isabelline wheatears and spotted two stone-curlews through the heat haze. We stopped by a group of mature oaks and walked in their shade, locating a middle spotted and an even more elusive Syrian woodpecker, while two red-rumped swallows flew around the farm buildings and a steppe buzzard passed overhead. Our last destination was in a parallel range of hills where we walked up a scrubby valley. Butterflies were much in evidence here, including cardinals, silver-washed and spotted fritillaries, holly and green-underside blue, and purple-washed copper, many collecting minerals from the mud of the stream. There was a rich flora in this area including fine-leaved vetch, Italian viper's bugloss, crown vetch and wall germander.

We drove back to Tulcea and arrived at the modern and quirky Ibis guesthouse, our home for the next three nights, to find our bags already there. Rooms were allocated, air-conditioning mastered, showers taken, drinks and then dinner.

### Tuesday 11 June – Dobrogea

After breakfast we drove south to Deniz-Tepe – 'Hill of the Sea' – located on the coast long ago when sea levels were higher, but now surrounded by a sea of flax, sunflower, wheat and barley fields. A short-toed eagle and two long-legged buzzards drifted around the hill, while a scan of the surrounding dry grassland produced tawny pipit, isabelline wheatears, ortolan, short-toed larks, skylark and, slightly out of place in the dry landscape, a hunting marsh harrier.

We moved on to Babadag Forest where we visited two contrasting vegetation types. The first was a stand of 'Balkan Forest' on the northern slopes. This dark, tall forest was dominated by hornbeam and had a very northern feel, with blackbird, song thrush and blackcap all singing. A red-breasted flycatcher showed briefly as it moved from tree to tree. Where light reached the woodland floor, butterflies included silver-washed and cardinal fritillaries, comma, and speckled wood. The ground flora was less familiar, with Pontic skullcap, milk vetch and motherwort.



Silver-washed fritillary (TS); long-legged buzzard (JC).

The second stop was an area of Mediterranean forest-steppe on the southern slopes with downy oak and ash the dominant trees. Historically this area was nicknamed 'The Sultan's garden' due to the rich flora and it is now a 1000 ha nature reserve. Mihai led us through the botanical delights which included a few familiar species, such as pyramidal orchid and ground pine, but many unfamiliar including solitary clematis, scentless feverfew, the striking yellow *Achillea clypeoplata*, Balkan paeony and *Haplophyllum ciliatum*. Here we had our best views yet of an ortolan and butterflies included Ilex hairstreak, cardinal, great banded grayling and Essex skipper, plus nine-spotted moth.



Ilex hairstreak (JC); cardinal (TS).

By popular request, the next stop was at a petrol station for loos and ice creams, before we moved on to the nearby forest edge. We settled in the shade of some hornbeams for our picnic lunch after which we explored the area a little. Heavy grazing by sheep limited the flora but Mihai found us a red-listed pink bindweed *Convolvulus cantabricus*. Golden orioles sang in the dense woodland while woodlark and ortolan sang from the open edge. Two young green lizards posed at the base of a tree, like us unwilling to leave the shade.

We moved on to the mediaeval fort at Enisala, originally built by the sea but now overlooking the enormous Lake Razim, with the Black Sea coast just visible about 5 miles away. Our visit here was primarily for the scenery but from the bus we enjoyed our best views so far of sousliks, including a rare chinchilla-coloured variant. It was too hot for birding but a short stop at the reedy edge of a small lake added red-crested pochard to the trip list. At the next village we pulled in to look at a white stork's nest. We had passed many such nests today but this one was also home to a colony of Spanish sparrows, their nests typically bulkier than house and tree sparrow which also nest in stork nests.

Heading back towards Tulcea we stopped at a disused quarry where in less hot conditions we might have hoped to see rock thrush or Levant sparrowhawk, but had to make do with a pair of long-legged buzzards, black redstarts and red-rumped swallows. We were back in Tulcea a little early, with time for a stroll around the town or a nap, before dinner.

### Wed 12 June – Dobrogea

On our last day we took breakfast early and left at 08.15 to make the most of the cooler morning, setting off south. Beyond Babadag Forest, our route to the Black Sea coast took us through a landscape of intensive agriculture and wind turbines with, here and there, remnants of natural steppe grassland. Our first stop was at one such patch of steppe, complete with shepherd and flock. This initially looked birdless but with a little patience crested, short-toed and at least six calandra larks all revealed themselves.



Collared pratincole (JC).

We drove on to the coastal village of Vadu. The road to the beach took us past a derelict cement factory (apparently another failed industrial project from the communist era) and through lagoons and reedbeds where we stopped to explore. On one deep lagoon black terns and little gulls fed around a noisy colony of common terns and on others a few white and dalmatian pelicans loafed. At least two bitterns were seen in flight and a few collared pratincoles appeared to be nesting on a dry lagoon. Wires and bushes provided perches for bee-eaters, tawny pipit and yellow wagtails – mostly black-headed but with a few of uncertain race.

We drove on to the shore of the Black Sea and arrived at an undramatic narrow sandy beach backed by low dunes with sea cabbage, sea holly and sea spurge. Flocks of loafing gulls – Caspian, black-headed and Mediterranean – on the shore were scrutinised through the heat haze and a few Sandwich and little terns passed offshore. By late morning, despite the sea breeze, it was feeling very hot and there was only one thing to do – paddle in the sea. At lunchtime we retreated to a café in the village where we ate our packed lunches in the cool shade of cherry trees, supplemented by ice creams and cold beers.

After lunch we drove north of the village to some coastal marshes where a WW2 German blockhouse provided a vantage point to view the south end of the enormous Lacul Sinoie ('blue lake'). A flock of around 200 white pelicans fished in formation while a few dalmatian pelicans and great egrets looked on. More drama unfolded as a white-tailed eagle energetically pursued a marsh harrier carrying prey, which headed out to sea to escape. A second white-tailed eagle and, unusually for the season, a lone common crane flew over. On the way back to Tulcea we detoured via a quarry where rose-coloured starlings sometimes nest but, alas, not this year and we made do with a fine pair of long-legged buzzards and an ortolan.

We arrived back at the hotel (33 degrees outdoors) with time spare for relaxation before dinner. After dinner the group were treated to cake and fizz, and a musical duo with operatic vocals accompanied by piano accordion and violin. Later, in Honeyguide tradition, everybody related their personal highlights of the trip, listed below:-

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| John     | Pratincoles; long-legged buzzards.                               |
| Jan      | Whiskered terns, squacco herons, paddling in the Black Sea.      |
| Alistair | Black woodpecker.  |
| Tonia    | Whiskered tern colony on water lilies.                           |
| Sue      | 'Walking the plank' on the delta; the whiskered tern colony.     |
| Angela   | Getting so close to the whiskered tern colony; squaccos.         |
| David    | Whiskered tern colony, the storm, white tailed eagles; hawfinch. |
| Sandra   | Up the creek, little bitterns, ortolans.                         |
| Tim      | The waterways and water-birds of the delta; white-tailed eagles. |

#### Thursday 13 June – homeward bound

After our final breakfast we said farewells to the guesthouse team and to our guide Eugen and boarded the bus for the drive back to Bucharest and our afternoon flight home.



Group members paddling in the Black Sea (JC); the group on the dayboat on the Danube Delta (TS).

## WILDLIFE LISTS

DD = Danube Delta      Do = Dobrogea

### BIRDS

Red-necked grebe	Small numbers daily in DD.
Great crested grebe	Common in DD and coastal lakes in Do.
Black-necked grebe	A few seen in DD.
White pelican	Common in DD and coastal lakes in Do.
Dalmatian pelican	Small numbers seen daily in DD and coastal lakes in Do.
Cormorant	Abundant in DD and coastal Do.
Pygmy cormorant	Common in DD.
Grey heron	Common in DD and coastal lakes in Do.
Purple heron	Locally abundant in DD.
Great white egret	Common in DD and coastal lakes in Do.
Little egret	Common in DD and coastal lakes in Do.
Squacco heron	Common in DD.
Night heron	Common in DD.
Little bittern	A few seen daily in DD and on coastal lakes in Do.
Bittern	Heard daily in DD, but only seen once. 2-3 seen at Vadu (Do).
Black stork	1 seen on last day in DD.
White stork	Common in agricultural areas of DD and Do. Nest in many villages.
Glossy ibis	Small numbers seen daily in DD and wetland in Do.
Spoonbill	Small numbers seen on two days in DD.
Mute swan	Small numbers daily in DD and Do.
Greylag goose	Small numbers daily in DD.
Shelduck	A few at Caraorman (DD) and at Vadu (Do).
Gadwall	Small numbers daily in DD, also in coastal Do.
Mallard	Small numbers daily in DD and Do.
Garganey	Small numbers on 2 days in DD and at Enisala (Do).
Shoveler	2 seen on first day in DD.
Red crested pochard	Several at Enisala (Do).
Pochard	Small numbers seen daily in DD and at Enisala and Vadu (Do.)
Ferruginous duck	Small numbers seen daily in DD and at Vadu (Do.)
Black kite	2 seen at Celic Dere (Do).
White-tailed eagle	Several seen on two days in DD and two at Vadu (Do).
Short-toed eagle	One at Deniz-Tepe (Do).
Marsh harrier	Very numerous in DD and a few daily in Do.
Common buzzard	A few each day in Do and on route to/from Bucharest.
Long-legged buzzard	Several daily in Do.
Booted eagle	One near Somova (Do).
Kestrel	A few daily in DD and Do.
Red-footed falcon	A few in DD and on the way to Vadu (Do).
Hobby	Several daily in DD and at Babadag Forest (Do).
Pheasant	A few daily in DD and Do.
Common crane	One at Vadu (Do).
Little crane	One calling early morning from the main boat near Lacul Lacub (DD).
Moorhen	Several daily in DD.
Coot	Numerous daily in DD and coastal Do.
Black-winged stilt	A few in DD and at Vadu (Do.)
Avocet	A few in DD and at Vadu (Do).
Stone-curlew	Two seen nr. Greci (Do).
Collared pratincole	A few at Caraorman (DD) and Vadu (Do).
Lapwing	A few daily in DD and on route from Bucharest.
Black-tailed godwit	Several at Caraorman (DD).
Redshank	A few at Caraorman (DD) and Vadu (Do).
Green sandpiper	Seen twice in DD.
Wood sandpiper	A few at Caraorman (DD) and Vadu (Do).
Caspian gull	Frequent daily with some big flocks on larger lakes and on the coast.
Pallas's gull	2-3 near Lacul lacub and one on Lake Puiu (DD).
Black-headed gull	Frequent daily.
Mediterranean gull	A small flock on the beach at Vadu (Do).
Little gull	Around 10 on coastal pools at Vadu (Do).
Sandwich tern	A few off the beach at Vadu (Do).
Common tern	Small numbers daily in DD and on the Black Sea coast.
Little tern	A few off the beach at Vadu (Do.)
Whiskered tern	Seen daily in DD and at Enisala and Vadu (Do).
Black tern	A few in DD and at Vadu (Do).
Rock dove/feral pigeon	A few daily.
Stock dove	A few daily.
Woodpigeon	A few daily.
Turtle dove	Singles seen at roadside in two locations in Do.
Collared dove	Common daily around habitation.
Cuckoo	Seen daily, very numerous in DD with up to 5 seen at the same time.
Little owl	A couple seen from the van on route from Bucharest.
Swift	A few seen on route from Bucharest and around Tulcea.

Kingfisher	Many seen each day in DD.
Bee-eater	A few seen daily in DD and Do, with colonies at Caraorman (DD), Enisala and Vadu (Do).
Roller	Seen daily in DD and Do.
Hoopoe	Seen daily in DD and Do.
Wryneck	One heard calling at Celic Dere (Do).
Middle spotted woodpecker	1-2 seen near Telita, Celic Dere and in Macin Mountains (Do.)
Great spotted woodpecker	A few seen daily in DD and at Babadag Forest (Do).
Syrian woodpecker	One seen in Macin Mountains (Do).
Black woodpecker	One seen at close quarters in DD.
Grey-headed woodpecker	Two or three seen in DD.
Calandra lark	Several in roadside fields near Sacele (Do).
Short-toed lark	A few in song at two sites in Do.
Crested lark	Seen daily in Do.
Woodlark	In song at two sites in Do.
Skylark	A few at two sites in Do.
Sand martin	A few most days in DD and Do.
Swallow	Common everywhere.
Red-rumped swallow	A few seen in rocky parts of Do.
House martin	A few seen daily in DD and Do.
White wagtail	Common in DD and around wetlands in Do.
Yellow wagtail	Locally in DD and coastal Do. Mostly black-headed ( <i>feldegg</i> ) but a few <i>dombrowskii</i> and intermediates.
Tawny pipit	A few seen each day in Do.
Wren	One in song from woodland in DD.
Blackbird	Seem daily in DD and Do.
Song thrush	In song in woodland at Celic Dere and Babadag Forest.
Savi's warbler	Heard daily and occasionally seen in DD.
Sedge warbler	A few daily in DD.
Reed warbler	A few daily in DD and at Enisala (Do).
Marsh warbler	One in song at DD.
Great reed warbler	Several daily in DD and wetlands in Do.
Eastern olivaceous warbler	A few heard in DD, one seen well, and several places in Do.
Icterine warbler	A few heard in DD and Do.
Chiffchaff	Seen and heard daily in DD and Celic Dere (Do).
Wood warbler	Heard in song at Celic Dere (Do).
Blackcap	Many heard and seen in DD and Do.
Garden warbler	Heard daily in DD, and occasionally in Do.
Lesser whitethroat	Heard daily in DD.
Spotted flycatcher	Only at Celic Dere (Do).
Red-breasted flycatcher	Heard and seen briefly at Celic Dere and Babadag Forest (Do).
Common nightingale	Heard singing in DD.
Thrush nightingale	Probably heard in DD.
Redstart	Heard daily in DD.
Black redstart	2-3 at one quarry in Do.
Northern wheatear	A few at Caraorman (DD) and several sites in Do.
Pied wheatear	A male in song at a quarry near Somova (Do).
Isabelline wheatear	A few seen daily on steppe grassland in Do.
Bearded tit	A few seen daily in DD and at Vadu (Do).
Long-tailed tit	A few seen daily in DD.
Blue tit	Seen daily in DD and at Babadag Forest (Do).
Great tit	Seen daily in DD.
Nuthatch	Seen or heard at Celic Dere and Babadag Forest (Do).
Penduline tit	Seen and heard daily in DD.
Golden oriole	A few heard and occasionally seen most days in DD and Do.
Red-backed shrike	Scarce in DD but frequently seen in Do.
Lesser grey shrike	One in DD, and a few daily in Do.
Jay	One flew over the road at Babadag Forest
Magpie	Common throughout.
Jackdaw	Common throughout.
Rook	Flocks seen most days in DD and Do.
Hooded crow	Common throughout.
Starling	Common throughout.
Reed bunting	A few each day in DD
Ortolan bunting	A few each day in Do.
Corn bunting	Occasional seen in DD and more frequently in Do.
Chaffinch	Common throughout.
Greenfinch	Occasionally seen in DD and Do.
Goldfinch	Common throughout.
Linnet	Only on route from Bucharest.
Hawfinch	A few at Celic Dere (Do.)
House sparrow	Common throughout.
Spanish sparrow	Colonies in stork nests at two villages in coastal Do.
Tree sparrow	A few most days in DD and Do.

MAMMALS	
Musk rat	Eastern hedgehog (dead on road)
European souslik	Red fox
Brown rat	Raccoon dog (dead on road)
Mole (hills only)	

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS	
Green lizard	Tree frog (heard only)
Balkan green lizard	European pond terrapin
Grass snake	Fire-bellied toad
Marsh frog	

BUTTERFLIES	
Essex skipper	Lesser spotted fritillary
Common swallowtail	Grayling
Large white	Great-banded grayling
Small tortoiseshell	Meadow brown
Comma	Speckled wood
Painted lady	Ilex hairstreak
Red admiral	Large copper
Silver-washed fritillary	Green-underwing blue
Cardinal	Holly blue

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES (many more species were inconclusively identified)	
Banded demoiselle	Emperor
Blue-tailed damselfly	Lesser emperor
Red-eyed damselfly	Black-tailed skimmer
Small red-eyed damselfly	Scarlet darter
Willow emerald	Scarce chaser
Norfolk hawkler	

OTHER INVERTEBRATES	
Horsefly ( <i>Hybomitra</i> spp.)	German wasp ( <i>Vespula Germanic</i> )
Gypsy moth caterpillar	Paper wasp ( <i>Polistes</i> sp.)
Rose chafer ( <i>Cetonia aurata</i> )	Mammoth wasp ( <i>Megascolia</i> sp.)
Great silver diving beetle ( <i>Hydrophilus piceus</i> )	Violet carpenter bee ( <i>Xylocopa</i> sp.)
European hornet ( <i>Vespa crabro</i> )	Leaf cutter bee ( <i>Megachile</i> sp.)
Common wasp ( <i>Vespula vulgaris</i> )	Common carder bumblebee ( <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> )
Nine-spotted moth	A potter wasp ( <i>Delta unguiculatum</i> )



Souslik (TS); mammoth wasps (JC); lesser grey shrike (TS).

## PLANTS

This is a very incomplete list, mainly those plants we could identify from a boat on the delta and a mix of typical and special species of Dobrogea pointed out by Mihai.

<b>FERNS AND ALLIES</b>		
<b>Dryopteridaceae</b>		
Crested buckler fern	<i>Dryopteris cristata</i>	DD
<b>Equisetaceae</b>		
Field horsetail	<i>Equisetum arvense</i>	Do
Water horsetail	<i>Equisetum fluviatile</i>	DD
<b>Hypolepidaceae</b>		
Bracken	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Do
<b>Thelypteridaceae</b>		
Marsh Fern	<i>Thelypteris palustris</i>	DD
<b>ANGIOSPERMS</b>		
<b>Aceraceae</b>		
Field maple	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Do.
Sycamore	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Do.
<b>Anacardiaceae</b>		
Smoke bush	<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	Do.
<b>Apocynaceae</b>		
Montpelier scamomy plant	<i>Cynanchum acutum</i>	Do.
White swallowwort	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Do.
<b>Araliaceae</b>		
Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>	Do.
<b>Asparagaceae</b>		
Climbing asparagus	<i>Asparagus verticillatus</i>	Do.
<b>Betulaceae</b>		
Alder	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	DD
Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Do.
Eastern Hornbeam	<i>Carpinus orientalis</i>	Do.
Hazel	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Do.
<b>Boraginaceae</b>		
Italian bugloss	<i>Echium italicum</i>	Do.
Viper's bugloss	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Do.
Water forget-me-not	<i>Myosotis scorpiodes</i>	Do.
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
Spreading bellflower	<i>Campanula patula</i>	Do.
<b>Cannabaceae</b>		
Hop	<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Do.
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
Common elder	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Do.
Red-berried elder	<i>Sambucus racemosa</i>	DD
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Do.
<b>Caryophyllaceae</b>		
a sandwort	<i>Moehringia grisebachii</i>	Do.
<b>Compositae</b>		
a yarrow	<i>Achillea clypeolata</i>	Do.
a yarrow	<i>Achillea coarctata</i>	Do.
Noble yarrow	<i>Achillea nobilis</i>	Do.
a yarrow	<i>Achillea setacea</i>	Do.
Wormwood	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	Do.
a wormwood	<i>Artemisia austriaca</i>	Do.
Tartarian southernwood	<i>Artemisia santonica</i>	Do.
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus thoermeri</i>	Do.
Yellow knapweed	<i>Centaurea orientalis</i>	Do.
Mouse-ear hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Do.

<b>Compositae (cont'd)</b>		
a cotton thistle	<i>Onopordum</i> sp.	DD
Fen ragwort	<i>Senecio paludosus</i>	DD
a feverfew	<i>Tanacetum corymbosum</i>	Do.
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Do.
<b>Convolvulaceae</b>		
Hedge bindweed	<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	DD
Cantabrian bindweed	<i>Convolvulus cantabricus</i>	Do.
Narrow-leaved bindweed	<i>Convolvulus lineatus</i>	Do.
<b>Cornaceae</b>		
Cornelian cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Do.
<b>Cruciferae</b>		
Yellowtuft	<i>Alyssum murale</i>	Do.
Sea kale	<i>Crambe maritima</i>	Do.
Diffuse wallflower	<i>Erysimum diffusum</i>	Do.
Marsh Yellowcress	<i>Rorippa palustris</i>	Do.
<b>Elaeagnaceae</b>		
Russian olive	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Do.
<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>		
Nice spurge	<i>Euphorbia nicaeensis</i>	Do.
Sea spurge	<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Do.
Dog's mercury	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Do.
<b>Fagaceae</b>		
Pale oak	<i>Quercus pedunculiflora</i>	Do.
Downy oak	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Do.
<b>Geraniaceae</b>		
Herb robert	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Do.
<b>Hippocastanaceae</b>		
Horse chestnut	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Do.
<b>Labiatae</b>		
Motherwort	<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Do.
Water mint	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	DD
Horse mint	<i>Mentha longifolia</i>	Do.
Pontic skullcap	<i>Scutellaria pontica</i>	Do.
Wall germander	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Do.
Felty germander	<i>Teucrium polium</i>	Do.
Hungarian thyme	<i>Thymus pannonicus</i>	Do.
<b>Leguminosae</b>		
False indigo bush	<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	DD
Milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Do.
Crown vetch	<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Do.
False acacia	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	Do.
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Do.
Slender vetch	<i>Vicia tenuifolia</i>	Do.
<b>Linaceae</b>		
Downy flax	<i>Linum hirsutum</i>	Do.
Narrow-leaved flax	<i>Linum tenuifolium</i>	Do.
<b>Moraceae</b>		
White mulberry	<i>Morus alba</i>	Do.
Black mulberry	<i>Morus nigra</i>	Do.
<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>		
Yellow water-lily	<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	DD
White water-lily	<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	DD
Fringed water-lily		DD

<b>Oleaceae</b>		
Canadian ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	DD
Narrow-leaved ash	<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Do.
Ash	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Do.
<b>Onograceae</b>		
Evening primrose	<i>Oenothera</i> sp.	Do.
<b>Paeoniaceae</b>		
Balkan paeony	<i>Paeonia peregrina</i>	Do.
<b>Polygalaceae</b>		
Great milkwort	<i>Polygala major</i>	Do.
<b>Polygonaceae</b>		
Sheep sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Do.
Water dock	<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	DD
<b>Primulaceae</b>		
Water-violet	<i>Hottonia palustris</i>	DD
Creeping jenny	<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Do.
<b>Ranunculaceae</b>		
Pheasant's eye	<i>Adonis vernalis</i>	Do.
Wood anemone	<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Do.
Marsh marigold	<i>Caltha palustris</i>	DD
Solitary clematis	<i>Clematis integrifolia</i>	Do.
Traveller's joy	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Do.
Eastern larkspur	<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	Do.
Forking larkspur	<i>Consolida regalis</i>	Do.
<b>Rosaceae</b>		
Cornelian cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Do.
Hawthorn	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	DD, Do.
Hoary cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Do.
Marsh cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	DD
Wild cherry	<i>Prunus avium</i>	Do.
Cherry plum	<i>Prunus cera</i>	DD, Do.
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>	DD, Do.
Raspberry	<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Do.
Salad burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>	Do.
Wayfaring tree	<i>Viburnum lantana</i>	Do.
<b>Rubiaceae</b>		
a bedstraw	<i>Galium dasypodum</i>	Do.
Sweet woodruff	<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Do.
<b>Rutaceae</b>		
Fragrant yellow-rue	<i>Haplophyllum ciliatum</i>	Do.
<b>Salicaceae</b>		
Black poplar	<i>Populus nigra</i>	DD, Do.
Hybrid poplar	<i>Populus x canadensis</i>	DD, Do.
White poplar	<i>Populus alba</i>	DD
White willow	<i>Salix alba</i>	DD, Do.
Goat willow	<i>Salix caprea</i>	DD, Do.
Grey willow	<i>Salix cinerea</i>	DD, Do.
Crack willow	<i>Salix fragilis</i>	DD
Purple willow	<i>Salix purpurea</i>	DD, Do.
Almond willow	<i>Salix triandra</i>	DD
<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>		
Field cow-wheat	<i>Melampyrum arvense</i>	Do.
A mullein	<i>Verbascum banaticum</i>	Do.
Orange mullein	<i>Verbascum phlomoides</i>	Do.

<b>Tamaricaceae</b>		
Tamarisk	<i>Tamarix gallica</i>	DD
<b>Tiliaceae</b>		
Small-leaved lime	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Do.
<b>Umbelliferae</b>		
Wild carrot	<i>Daucus carota</i>	DD
Field eryngo	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Do.
Sea holly	<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Do.
a ferulago	<i>Ferulago confusa</i>	Do.
Milk-parsley	<i>Peucedanum palustre</i>	DD
Sanicle	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Do.
<b>Vitaceae</b>		
Grape vine	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	DD
<b>Urticaceae</b>		
Stinging nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	DD
<b>Alismataceae</b>		
Water plantain	<i>Alisma plantago-aquatica</i>	DD
<b>Alliaceae</b>		
Sicilian honey-garlic	<i>Nectaroscordum siculum</i>	Do.
<b>Araceae</b>		
Eastern arum	<i>Arum orientalis</i>	Do.
<b>Butomaceae</b>		
Flowering rush	<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	DD
<b>Cyperaceae</b>		
Lesser pond sedge	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>	DD
Fibrous tussock sedge	<i>Carex appropinquata</i>	DD
Water-chestnut	<i>Eleocharis dulcis</i>	DD
Grey club-rush	<i>Schoenoplectus tabernaemontani</i>	DD
<b>Gramineae</b>		
Jointed goat-grass	<i>Aegilops cylindrica</i>	Do.
Rough brome	<i>Bromus squarrosus</i>	Do.
a beard-grass	<i>Chrysopogon gryllus</i>	Do.
Volga fescue	<i>Festuca valesiaca</i>	Do.
Reed sweet-grass	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	DD
Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	DD, Do.
Lessing feather-grass	<i>Stipa lessingiana</i>	Do.
Ukrainian feather-grass	<i>Stipa ucrainica</i>	Do.
<b>Hydrocharitaceae</b>		
Frog-bit	<i>Hydrocharis morusranea</i>	DD
Water soldier	<i>Stratoides aloides</i>	DD
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
Yellow flag	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	DD
<b>Juncaceae</b>		
Saltmarsh rush	<i>Juncus gerardi</i>	Do.
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
Branched St Bernard's-lily	<i>Anthericum ramosum</i>	Do.
<b>Orchidaceae</b>		
Pyramidal orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Do.
<b>Typhaceae</b>		
Lesser reedmace	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	DD
Great reedmace	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	DD