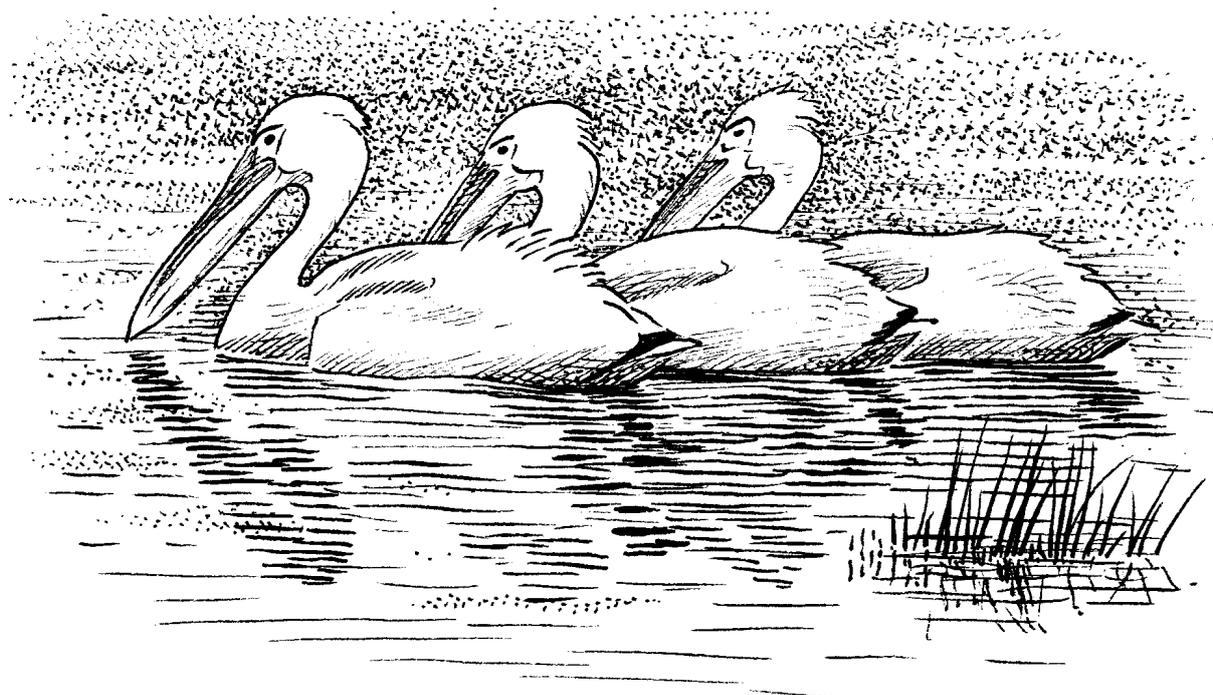


Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane Thorpe St Andrew Norwich NR7 0PX
Telephone and Fax 01603 300552 Evenings and weekends



Danube Delta
1 – 8 June 2002

Danube Delta
1 – 8 June 2002

Holiday participants

Margaret Cox
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Fred Currie
Muriel Currie

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Stuart Swan

Merton Park, London

Pat Sellwood

Wakefield

David Lingard
Shirley Lingard

Lincolnshire

Leaders

Eugen Petrescu (birds)
Mihai Petrescu (botanist)

Daily diary and bird list by Eugen Petrescu. Plant list supplied by Mihai Petrescu. Both were edited by Chris Durdin – which I've tried to do with a light touch for Eugen's report, and I've added some English plant names to the long list of scientific names compiled by Mihai.

This holiday, as for every *Honeyguide* holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person, £275, was given to the young ornithologists group in Tulcea, *Falco cherrug* (the saker falcon). This brings the total given to the Romanian Ornithological Society (SOR) since 1999 to £1000, and to various conservation projects in Europe to more than £25,700 since the start of Honeyguide in 1991. A thank-you letter from SOR appears at the end of this report.

Illustrations by Rob Hume. Cover: white pelicans

DANUBE DELTA

1-8 June 2002

Saturday 1 June – Bucharest to Tulcea

Sunny weather

Along the road we were able to notice Rollers, Bee-eaters, Red-backed Shrike and Lesser Grey Shrikes. In the afternoon, after crossing the Danube in Dobrogea, we had the first stop at Lacul Hazarlik where for the first time the herons and the Great White Egret which the group will become so familiar with and have the opportunity to see so often in the next days were seen. The day was very nice and everyone happy.

Sunday 2 June – Dobrogea

Weather favourable from early morning, all day long warm, no extreme heat.

Because of the dry weather and especially the meteorological conditions that were expected to be rainy after a long while of drought, it was decided that besides the places included in programme, we should visit some other places from northern Dobrogea. This area is very picturesque and rich in birds, plants, species, many of them rare and attractive for the English visitors. These places are rich in water birds and also in those that prefer dry areas and forests. The purpose was to see as many places and rich in rare plants possible, places with a diversified fauna (sousliks, turtles, lizards, insects), in case the rain might affect the other days.

First stop was near village Parches, on a small hill, where a beautiful panorama of wetland all along the Danube could be seen, with lakes and swamps full of water lilies and other kinds of very rich water vegetation. On the shore we could see a hillock with steppe vegetation, lots of flowers, butterflies and lots of Sousliks. Along the road, in ravines dug in loess by the torrents, we were able to see lots of colonies of Bee-eaters, and in older holes of the colonies there were nests of Northern Wheatears, Rollers and even some of Hoopoe and Little Owl. Here we saw in excellent conditions Booted Eagle – the pale variant – while it was hunting Sousliks, and three Long-legged Buzzards.

Near the road, very close, lots of Lesser Grey Shrikes, Red-backed Shrikes and Corn Buntings. In an oak tree we saw Golden Oriole nesting. Over the forest hill from the surrounding area two Honey Buzzards were flying and far away we saw some eagles which couldn't be identified because the big distance. Besides its beauty the spot permitted us a good view towards Ukraine, the neighbour country. The wetland was combining with the steppe area and afforested hills in a harmonious manner, from the same spot we could see water birds and land area birds together. Many in the group took photographs and were very thrilled.

On the road in a lake full of water lilies (near village Revarsarea) the first Dalmatian Pelican and first colonies of Whiskered Terns could be seen on the leaves of water lilies. On the electric poles from the localities, lots of White Storks nests with big chicks were seen. On the loess hills along the road we saw big colonies of Sand Martins and groups of Rose-coloured Starling flying.

A new stop was made in Macin Mountains, near Pricopan, the land area where the steppe is combining with massive rock, dry hills, with a nearby rock quarry. Right along the road, trough the steppe near the hill, we had the first encounter with Isabelline Wheatears, a family with three chicks, and also a nest was found in a hole of a ground squirrel (Souslik). Another stop was made at the desert quarry where all the group could see Pied Wheaters, Rock Thrushes and Ortolan Bunting. Here were also seen Spur-Thighed Tortoise (*Testudo graeca*), Balkan Green Lizard (*Lacerta trilineata*) and Green Lizard (*Lacerta viridis*). In a place with bushes, Barred Warblers could be seen and heard.

After a picnic, a short stop was done at a place where Woodchat Shrikes nest and a pair were seen. On the way between Macin and Greci a short stop was done to see the three Ruddy Shelducks on the Lacul Sarat. Then in the Greci area near the mountain, several pairs of Isabelline Wheatears and Hoopoes could be spotted. We tried to spot Saker Falcons near their nests but, unfortunately, there were some amateur climbers from Galati. We wrote down their licence plate to be identified by the Environmental Protection Agency, for abusive entry in a protected area. Long-legged Buzzards and Steppe Buzzards were spotted again. Near the primitive settlement of shepherds we saw Middle Spotted Woodpecker,

Grey-headed Woodpecker, Icterine Warbler and a very good observation of a Sombre Tit. On the return trip near Cerna locality, a Short-toed Eagle with a snake in its claws was spotted and a Red-footed Falcon also. A beautiful day, no rain.

Monday 3 June – Dobrogea

60% cloudy

On our way to Babadag Forest we had a small stop at Denis Tepe hill, which is surrounded by steppe and agriculture fields. There were a lot of Calandra Larks which could be seen either flying or along the road, then some Short-toed Larks, Crested Larks, Tawny Pipits and lots of Skylarks. On the hill, colonies of Bee-Eaters, flying raptors (Hobby, Long-legged Buzzards, a very good view of a Short-toed Eagle, a Black Stork flying and near the road a nest of White Storks with a colony of Spanish Sparrows in it could be seen.

At Babadag Forest the group divided in two – bird fans and plant fans. The plant fans saw several orchids and other rare plants while the birds fan saw Levant Sparrowhawk, Honey Buzzards, Buzzards, Booted Eagle, Hobby, Red-footed Falcons, Cuckoos, Turtle Doves, Woodlarks, Song Thrush, Barred Warblers, lots of Ortolan and Corn Buntings and as a rarity for Romania, in June, a Bonelli's Warbler was heard (confirmed on listening to the CD). It is possible this is nesting here and in this case it would be the first certification of the nesting in Romania.

After picnic we stopped at Enisala, the beautiful sight of Babadag Lake and Razelm lagoon was admired, visit at Byzantine fortress. Lots of raptors flying away (difficult to identify) and among the rocks lots of Northern Wheatears, the colony of Bee-eaters with lots of nests occupied by Common Swifts and Starlings and again a Little Owl. In the lake near the village were Red-crested Pochards, Ferruginous Duck and Little Bitterns.

We travelled along the road on the edge of Razelm lagoon to Plopu-Murighiol. Near the road from a small distance was a flock of 80 Rose-coloured Starlings. Along the road we met lots of flocks. Near lake Sarinasuf, on the lake, lots of Egrets, Herons, Ducks, Pelicans, bigger or smaller Pigmy, very good sight of six Dalmatian Pelicans. On the lake Plopu (brackish water) lots of Avocets and Black-winged Stilts were seen. At the Lake Saraturi-Murighiol, a light rain started and the bird fans got near the lake and were able to observe the beautiful colony of Mediterranean Gulls (over 200), Common Terns, Black-headed Gulls and Yellow-legged Gulls colony. On the lake were Greylag Geese and more than 40 Black-necked Grebes. On the hills from Bestepe on a light rain which stopped quickly, everyone enjoyed the panoramic view of Delta, lots of colonies of Bee-eaters and Rollers present were everywhere and especially a pair of Stone-curlews which was seen by everyone. Some of us had the opportunity to see a Montagu's Harrier flying. Through the sunny rain we headed to Tulcea and we saw on the way three colonies of Bee-eaters.

Tuesday 4 June – Tulcea-Istria-Vadu-Cheia

Morning slightly clouded, moderate wind

Along the way between Tulcea and Istria, several flocks of Rose-coloured Starlings were seen as well as many Lesser Grey Shrikes on the electric or telephone poles and raptors like Marsh Harrier, Long-legged Buzzard and Honey Buzzard. At the edge of the village Nuntasi we made a quick stop near a stork nest to see the colony of Spanish Sparrows.

At Istria, on our way to the fortress, we started a walk on foot. In the small and rare reed along the side of the road first Paddyfield Warblers are found – two families seen by everyone from a small distance. Lots of Great Reed Warblers, Reed Warblers and even some Marsh Warblers



and Savi's Warblers singing. Over our heads at a small distance hundreds of White Pelicans were flying and a few Dalmatian Pelicans also. Spoonbills in flocks of over 60 as well as in small flocks, Great White Egrets and over the swamps from the nearby area Common Shelducks, Garganey and Shovelers.

On the small lakes along the road, there were tens of Black-winged Stilts and Avocets. Here was our first encounter with Collared Pratincoles flying above us, landing on the glasswort (*Salicornia*) where they have nests near the almost dried out swamps. Also seen were Kentish Plovers, Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts, Common Redshank, Marsh Sandpipers (15), flying and in the shore, pretty close to the road one Red-necked Phalarope, among the plentitude of Black-tailed Godwit, flying Black Terns, White-winged Terns in summer plumage. All over the road and on the fields Yellow Wagtail, almost all variety, most of them being Black-headed Wagatail (*Feldegg*), and through the reed Bearded Tits in families. Everywhere singing frogs - Bombin and a lot of Edible Frogs, Grass Snakes and Dice Snakes, interesting plants and butterflies.

Since the clouds were becoming threatening we headed to Vadu (near the sea). Here in the swamps and two pools, there were hundreds of Collared Pratincoles, tens of Common Redshanks and Little Terns nesting. Also seen were one Black Kite, lots of Common Terns, Whiskered Terns and a few Black Terns. A very good observation was of Curlew Sandpiper in red plumage as well as Greenshanks and Marsh Sandpipers.

Everywhere Yellow Wagtails, Great Reed and Reed Warblers and Reed Buntings, herons and ducks, Pochards, Garganey, Mallard, Gadwall were seen. Over the sea few birds but lots of interesting shells and Sand Lizards (*Eremias*) as well as rare plants (Red List).

After lunch we were heading towards the Vadu exit, the rain started and we had a small stop at a colony of over 130 pairs of Red-footed Falcons. The rain stopped so everybody can watch the flying birds or nestlings from a small distance (the colony is in a rookery).

On our way to Cheia, we stopped at the half distance between Gura Dobrogei and Tirgusor in a picturesque place with hills consisting of Devonian Limestone, with forests and lots of bushes. There we saw Long-legged Buzzard, lots of Golden Orioles, Red-Backed Shrikes and Lesser Grey Shrikes as well as Barred Warblers singing, Blackcap, Icterine Warblers, Hoopoes, Pied Wheatears and Ortolan Buntings singing. A remarkable discovery for Dobrogea , two Red-rumped Swallows on the most northern part for nesting. Until now it was known that they are only on the south near the border with Bulgaria. Since it was cool after the rain, Nightingales could be heard singing and Ortolans. At Cheia was windy and very cloudy – we were able to see rare plants from the area and the very picturesque Gorges from the Devonian Limes. It was 5 p.m. when a torrent started – we headed back to Tulcea.

Wednesday 5 June – Danube Delta

Morning relatively cool, moderate wind, 60% cloudy

Tulcea - Canal 35 - Canal Sireasa - Lacul Nebunu - Girla Sontea - Lac Baclanesti - Lac Furtuna – Maliuc - Canal Sulina -Sat Crisan - Canal Caraorman until the channel from Lacul Iacob (here we slept at the half distance from the villages Crisan and Caraorman).

Early morning we headed with a motor boat towards a trip in the heart of the Delta, and the floating hotel travelled on the Danube and Canalul Sulina to Maliuc where the meeting for lunch will take place.

We travelled on channels bounded by willows, reed, and bushes of small bushes, beautiful sights small lakes full of vegetation and birds, colonies of Whiskered Terns could be seen on the water lilies. On the first part of the trip on higher banks made out of clay in an area 4-5 km in length 25 Kingfishers were spotted. There hadn't been many new species discovered; Tufted Duck, Black Woodpecker, White-tiled Eagle, Stock Dove, Common Redstart, Olivaceous Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher, Long Tailed Tit and Penduline Tit. The thing that impressed the most was the abundance of exemplars. The abundance of water birds was uncommon: hundreds of Pigmy Cormorants, White Pelicans, Little Egrets, Night herons, Squacco Herons, Grey Herons, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swans, Ducks (Garganeys, Gadwalls and Ferruginous Ducks); tens of Great White Egrets, Purple Herons, Spoonbills and Red-necked Grebe were seen flying at low distance. During our trip,

from place to place, Little Bitterns were flying low over the channels, landing quickly in reeds. Green Sandpipers returning from the north were on the mud edges in great number, as well as Black-tailed Godwits.

A few White-tailed Eagles were spotted flying but we had a nice spot of an adult standing near the nest, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Grey-headed Woodpeckers were in a large number, but the spotting in good conditions of a Black Woodpecker was unanimously appreciated. It was a six hours journey by boat, an opportunity to notice the greatness and the wilderness of the Delta. The weather was pleasant, but at 14.00 when we reached Maliuc, to meet the floating hotel for lunch, it started to rain cats and dogs. We were glad regarding this fit. We were intending to make a small walk after lunch in the surroundings of Maliuc, but because of the rain and the mud in the dams we were satisfied with some observations in the Maliuc village (Syrian woodpecker, Redstarts and Olivaceous Warbler). Comfortably with the floating hotel, we headed to Crisan and afterwards to Caraorman. We stopped near Lacul Iacob close by Canalul Litcov. The weather became beautiful again and we could enjoy the sunset and the plentitude of birds flying nearby.

Thursday 6 June – Danube Delta

Windy morning, 40% clouds

Canal Caraorman-Canal Litcov-Dunele de Nisip-Lacul Cuibul cu Lebede-Canal Ceamurlia –Lacul Iacob-Canal Caraorman –Satul Caraorman-Fish Pond Caraorman-Lacul Puiulet,Lacul Puiu Pana near the camp from Rosu, Dunarea Veche near the Lacul Cazanel where the night was spent.

Those who woke up early had the opportunity to admire the nature and the birds from the pontoon's deck. After breakfast the tourists left by the motor boat and a stop in the sand area dunes had been made to see the plant joint pine (*Ephedra distachya*) as well as other sand plants. We were able to notice the vegetation from the wet areas as well as water plants. Lots of butterflies and dragonflies were seen. Only then the special density of certain species like Great Reed Warblers, Reed Warblers and Sedge Warblers could be noticed.

The multitude of Ferruginous Ducks was unbelievable, considering that is on the red list; it was the most common duck. Hundreds of Pelicans were flying above us. After the walk, again a ride with the boat on a wonderful channel guarded by old willow forests and thickets of bushes, there we saw again Grey-headed Woodpeckers and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. All over, Redstarts, Blackcaps and Garden Warblers were singing.

We have visited the lake Cuibul cu Lebede, full of water lilies and water vegetation. On our way back we saw a mixed colony of Pygmy Cormorants, Glossy Ibis, Squacco Herons, Night Herons and Little Egrets, which seemed like a small colony until an utilitarian plane passed by (probably for filming) and we saw hundreds of birds flying away. Because of a coffee/tea break we missed the opportunity to see over 500 White Pelicans fishing: half an hour later when we entered Lake Iacob, the Pelicans were flying away because of a fisherman who got there before we did. We saw only five Dalmation Pelicans fishing by themselves. We left towards Village Caraorman, where on the small and salty waters we added Little Ringed Plover and Spotted Redshank to the number of waders seen before in Doborogea.

After lunch we took another walk on the dams of a fish pond near the lake. Tens of Purple Herons were in the area along Marsh Harriers. Savi's and Marsh Warblers were singing also we saw some Little Bitterns near the channel. Afterwards we headed by boat towards Lake Puiu. The weather was beautiful and the places admirable. On the dusk we returned to our floating hotel and we headed to Dunarea Veche until the Lacul Cazanel near the village Mila 23 where we put out for the night. Here one more surprise - on the shore near the pontoon, a Corncrake sang almost all night.

Friday 7 June – Danube Delta

Morning- 50% wind, cloudy. During the day the weather turned out beautiful

Dunarea Veche, Canal Heracleea, Canal Lopatna, Lacul Bogdaproste, Gira Versina, Sat Mila 23, Canal Olguta, Sontea, Sireasa, Canal 35, Tulcea

Early in the morning we headed by pontoon to Lopatna where we went towards Lacul Bogdaproste by motor boat and we hoped we would be able to see pelicans fishing. The strong wind made this

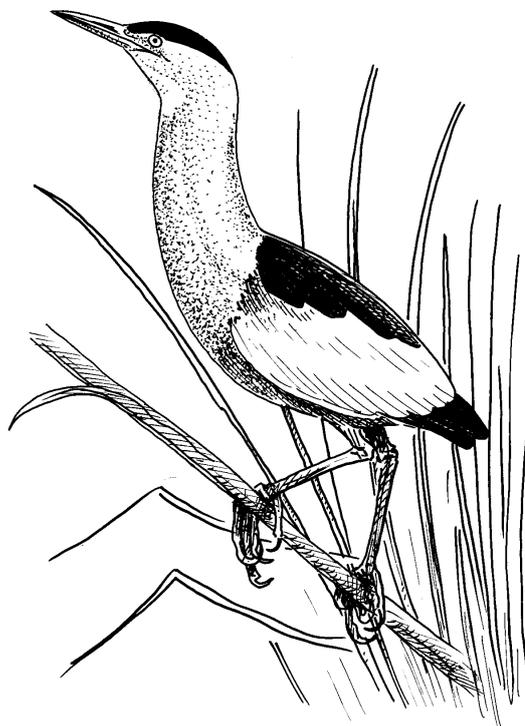
impossible but on our way back a surprise – right in front of us, 70 White Pelicans landed and fished along cormorants. Near the shore, egrets and herons were fishing also. On the same channel we saw also two nests of Penduline Tits, one occupied and the other one in construction still.

After the lake we visited the natural lake Versina, with crystal clear water, water lilies and water vegetation. Pictures were taken and then we drew near a willow forest where a mixed colony of over 100 birds can be found: lots of Pigmy Cormorants, Glossy Ibis, Night Herons, Squacco Herons and Little Egrets. Since we were more than 150 metres from the colony photos were impossible to take, but excellent observation by binoculars was possible. On the leaves of water lilies colonies of terns could be spotted. We visited a fishing village, the inhabitants are mostly Russians, the best fishermen of the Delta. After lunch we headed back to Tulcea on a dream way itinerary. The whole trip of over six hours was made on the floating hotel. Up on the deck we can see everything; it's an opportunity to review in different situations the birds we have seen before in the Delta. Everybody became experts in recognising the birds of the Delta, a relaxing trip, a good opportunity to take pictures or shoot some movies.

England won the football match, so everybody was happy. Even there where we were repeating the itinerary from the first day, the Delta seen from up there on the deck seemed different; we can see even what is happening across the reeds. Only a few of us descend from the deck for a short rest. The majority stood on the deck, they couldn't get enough of the watching the variety of birds and the wild scenery. At sunset we got near Tulcea. Everybody was on the deck and you could see on everybody's faces the regret that all passed so quickly.

Saturday 8 June – return to Bucharest

In the morning we should have seen Lesser Spotted Eagles in the afforested hills from Ciucurova, but the weather was misty, perhaps some other time. At Lake Hazarlic a new stop, one last Little Bittern sat really close to the road, now everybody can take their time and watch him. The ones who saw them flying only can declare themselves satisfied; the bridge over the Danube is passed and Dobrogea remains behind; towards Bucharest another world is revealed. Some of them prefer to watch behind.



Bird checklist, 1-8 June

Great Crested Grebe
Red-necked Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Cormorant
Pygmy Cormorant
White Pelican
Dalmatian Pelican
Little Bittern
Night Heron
Squacco heron
Little Egret

Great White Egret
Grey Heron
Purple Heron
Glossy Ibis
Black Stork
White Stork
Spoonbill
Mute Swan
Greylag Goose
Common Shelduck
Ruddy Shelduck

Wigeon
Gadwall
Garganey
Mallard
Shoveler
Red-crested Pochard
Pochard
Ferruginous Duck
Tufted Duck
Honey Buzzard
Black Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Marsh Harrier
Montagu's Harrier
Levant Sparrowhawk
Common Buzzard
Long-legged Buzzard
Booted eagle
Short-toed eagle
Common Kestrel
Red-footed falcon
Hobby
Pheasant
Quail
Corncrake
Moorhen
Coot
Black-winged Stilt
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Collared Pratincole
Little Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover
Lapwing
Little Stint
Curlew Sandpiper
Black-tailed Godwit
Spotted Redshank
Common Redshank
Marsh Sandpiper
Greenshank
Green Sandpiper
Red-necked Phalarope
Mediterranean Gull
Little Gull
Black Headed Gull
Yellow-legged Gull
Common Tern
Little Tern
Black Tern
White-winged Black Tern
Whiskered Tern
Common Cuckoo
Stock Dove
Wood Pigeon
Collared Dove
Turtle Dove
Lesser Grey Shrike
Woodchat Shrike
Jay

Little Owl
Common Swift
Common Kingfisher
Roller
European Bee-Eater
Hoopoe
Grey-headed Woodpecker
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Syrian Woodpecker
Middle Spotted Woodpecker
Black Woodpecker
Calandra Lark
Short-toed Lark
Crested Lark
Woodlark
Skylark
Sand Martin
Swallow
Red-rumped Swallow
House Martin
Tawny Pipit
White wagtail
Yellow Wagtail
Nightingale
Common Redstart
Pied Wheatear
Isabelline Wheatear
Northern Wheatear
Rock Thrush
Blackbird
Song Thrush
Savi's Warbler
Sedge Warbler
Paddyfield Warbler
Marsh Warbler
Reed Warbler
Great Reed Warbler
Olivaceous Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Barred Warbler
Lesser Whitethroat
Common Whitethroat
Garden Warbler
Blackcap
Bonelli's Warbler
Wood Warbler
Chiffchaff
Spotted Flycatcher
Long-tailed Tit
Bearded Tit
Penduline Tit
Sombre Tit
Blue tit
Great Tit
European Nuthatch
Golden Oriole
Red-backed Shrike
Magpie
Jackdaw
Rook

Hooded Crow	Goldfinch
Raven	Linnet
Common Starling	Hawfinch
Rose-coloured Starling	Yellowhammer
House Sparrow	Ortolan Bunting
Spanish Sparrow	Reed Bunting
Tree Sparrow	Corn Bunting
Chaffinch	
Greenfinch	Total 158 species

Plant list

Mihai Petrescu provided the following list of the plants seen at each location. Selected English names are added, especially for more interesting or eastern species.

2 June - Parches

Verbascum nigrum, *Orlaya grandiflora*, *Vicia tenuifolia*, *Coronilla varia* Crown vetch, *Carduus nutans*, *Nonea pulla*, *Papaver rhoeas*, *Ulmus minor*, *Agropyron pectiniformae* a couchgrass, *Cardaria draba*, *Convulvulus arvensis*, *Morus alba*, *Stachys recta*,
Salvia nemorosa a clary – a typical steppe species
Eleagnus angustifolia oleaster – a naturalised alien
Sambucus ebulus Dwarf elder or Danewort
Marrubium peregrinum an eastern white horehound.

Pricopan summit: *Dianthus nardiformis*, *Berterea incana*, *Sedum sartorium ssp hillebrandtii*, *Alysum murale*, *Allium rotundum* a leek, *Onopordum acanthum*,
Achillea setacea Yarrow sp. white flowered, SE European steppe species,
A. coarctata, *Heliotropum suaveolens*, *Robinia pseudacacia*, *Lyvium hamifolium*, *Teucrium polium*,
Salvia aethiopsis.

Greci: *Quercus polycarpa*, *Q. pedunculiflora*, *Q. pubescens*, *Q. viroiliana*, *Tilia tomentosa*, *T. platyphyllos*, *Carpinus orientalis*, *Fraxinus ornus*
Prunus mahaleb Saint Lucie's Cherry

3 June – Babadag Forest.

Anacamptis pyramidalis Pyramidal orchid
Limnorchis abortivum Violet birdsnest orchid or limador
Neottia nidus-avis Birdsnest orchid
Cephalanthera rubra Red helleborine
Orchis morio Green-winged orchid
O. purpurea Lady orchid
Orchis simia Monkey orchid
Plantanthera bifolia Lesser butterfly orchid
Clematis integrifolia, *Onobrychis gracilis*, *Trifolium medium*, *Orlaya grandiflora*, *Convolvulus lineatus*, *Linum austriacum*, *L. tenuifolium*, *L. hirsutum*, *Chrysanthemum millefolium*, *Centurea orientalis*, *Malus sylvestris*, *Pyrus bulgarica*, *Iris sintenisii*, *I. variegata*, *Plantago media*, *Papaver dubius*, *Astragalus glaucus*, *A. varius*, *A. corniculatus*, *A. monspessulanus*, *Stipa ucrainica*, *Jurinea mollis*, *Iris pumila*, *Asyneum anthericoides*.
Geranium sanguineum bloody cranesbill *Euphorbia stepposa* a spurge – typical steppe species.
Fragaria viridis, *Salvia nutans*, *Polygala major* Milkwort, *Melampyrum arense*, *Verbascum phloides*,
V. phoeniceum, *Veratrum niorum*, *Ononis columnae*, *Trinia glauca*, *Salvia austriaca*, *Phlomis tuberosus*, *Lychnis coronaria*, *Sorbus torminalis*, *Aegopodium podagraria*, *Polygonatum latifolium*,
Nectaroscum dioscoridis (*N. siculum ssp bulgaricum*) like an *Allium* – eastern Mediterranean
Acer tataricum Tartarian Maple
Cotinus coggygria Wig or smoke tree
Euonymus europaea Spindle tree
Quercus pubescens Downy oak
Quercus polycarpa an Oak – south-east Europe

Quercus pubescens Downy oak
Carpinus betulus Hornbeam
Carpinus orientalis Oriental hornbeam
Fraxinus ornus Flowering or manna ash
F. excelsior Ash
F. coriariifolia another ash!
Tilia tomentosa Silver Lime – south east Europe and Asia
T. platyphyllus, *Acer platanoides*, *A. campestre*.

Bestepe Hills: *Rosa elliptica*, *Achillea neilreichii*, *Ornithogalum orthophyllum*, *Potentilla pedata*, *Thymus zygoides*, *Dianthus nardiformis*, *Achillea coarctata*, *Melicia ciliata*, *Herniaria incana*.
Euphorbia seguieriana a spurge – typical steppe species
Digitalis lanata Grecian Foxglove

Sarinasue: *Artemisia santonicum*.

Deniztepe: *Vaccaria hispanica* sp *grandiflora*, *C. regalis*, *Papaver rhoeas*, *Centaurea solstitialis*, *Lathyrus tuberosus*, *Onopordum tauricum*, *Cuscuta europaea*.
Consolida orientalis Eastern Larkspur

4 June - Histrìa: *Halimione verrucifera*, *Dianthus bessarabicus*, *Salicornia prostrata*.

Vadu: *Argousia sibirica*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Plantago lanceolata*, *Elymus sabulosus* *Eryngium maritimum*, *Astragalus varius*, *Linaria genistifolia*, *Scolymus littoralis*, *J. gerardii*, *Chrysopogon gryllus*, *Linum austriacum*, *Crambe maritima*, *Centaurea arenaria*, *Onosma arenaria* a goldendrop.
Orchis elegans (*Orchis laxiflora* ssp. *elegans*) Lax-flowered orchid or Bog orchid.

Cheile Dobrogei: *Thymus zygiodes*, *Paronychia lephalotes*, *Linaria genistifolia*, *Amorpha fruticosa*, *Minuartica adenotricha*, *Ornithogalum orthophyllum*, *Celtis glabrata*, *Myosotis arvensis*.

5 June – Danube Channel – Sireasa, Sontea channel, Maliuc.

Rorripa amphibia, *R. sylvestris*, *Glyceria maxima*, *Althea officianalis*, *Typha angustifolia*, *Solanum dullamara*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Tanacetum vulgare*, *Vitis sylvestris* vine, *Salix alba* White Willow
S. purpurea, *Populus alba*, *P. nigra*, *F. pallisae*, *Taxodium distichum*, *Catalpa bignonioides*, *Prunus cerasifera*, *Glycyrrhiza echinata* Spiny-fruited liquorice, *Euphorbia palustris*, *Carex acutiformis*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Bromus tectorum*, *Morus alba*, *Platanus hybrida*, *Cydonia oblonga*, *Gleditsia tricanthos*, *Parthenocysus quinquefolia*, *Robinia pseudacacia* False acacia, *Myosotis scorpioides*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Stachys palustris*, *Arctium lappa*, *Verbena officianalis*.

6 June – Caraorman (Litcov channel, sand dunes)

Ephedra distachya joint-pine, *Verbascum banaticum*, *Scutellaria galericulata*, *Lyocopus europaeus*, *Galium palustre*, *Typha latifolia*, *Viscum album*, *Mentha aquatica* water mint, *M. pulegium*, *Holoschoenus vulgaris*, *Carex colchica*, *Nymphoides peltata*, *Hyppophae rhamnoides*, *Tamarix ramosissima*, *Gratiola officinalis*, *Lathyrus palustre*, *Teucrium sordium*, *Potentilla repens*, *Lysimachia nummularia*, *Scirpus lacustris*, *S. jabernaemontani*, *Butomus umbellatus*, *Carex acutiformis*, *Verbascum blattaria*.
Orchis elegans, *Sparganium erectum*, *Spergularia maritima*, *Stachys palustris* marsh woundwort, *Senecio paludosus*, *Onopodium acanthum*, *Carduus nutans*, *Euphorbia seguieriana*, *Salicornia europea* glasswort, *Calystegia sepium*, *Aeluropus, littoralis*, *Puccinellia limosa*, *Silene alba*, *Consolida orientalis* eastern larkspur *Bassia hirsuta* Hairy Seablite
Gnaphalium luteo-album Jersey cudweed, *Stratiodes aloides* water soldier

Lopatna channel: *Oryopteris thelypteris*, *Sium latifolium*, *Phragmites australis* ssp *altissima*, *Stratiodes aliodes*.



SOCIETATEA ORNITOLOGICA ROMANA

The Romanian Ornithological Society

Biroul Tulcea/Tulcea office

Societate pentru studiul si protectia pasarilor si a mediului inconjurator
Society for the study and protection of birds and environment

BirdLife International

FALCO CHERRUG GROUP
ROS TULCEA BRANCH
5 JULY 2002

Dear Chris Durdin and Honeyguide Tourists

We are impressed by the help you are giving us for several years. We have other sponsor friends, but none proved to be as constant as you were. Please receive this way our gratitude for your help which is worth 275 GBP.

As you may know, in the previous years, the money had been used for ornithological and ecological education actions of the students and the pupils from ROS branch the Falco Cherrug group from Tulcea County, as part of ornithological camps organized during summer and autumn. This year, since we are having more funds, we will organize on a bigger scale, the already traditional ROS camp from Danube Delta(in August), which will include from Tulcea area only, 45 pupils and students, along many others came from all over the country. We have already bought several light and quality tents so we won't be an easy prey for mosquitoes anymore, like we were when we used the old ones. Now the camp will be an opportunity to train volunteer ecological agents because the volunteer ecological agent role had been approved by law. During the camp we will do cleaning actions of area affected by savage tourism, which unfortunately is still done by some of our co inhabitants from Danube Delta.

Danube Delta and Dobrogea need today as many volunteers as possible to help protecting their areas and the volunteers must be trained to know the avifauna very well. Recently ROS initiated a program for a network of "care takers "for IBA. You can't protect what you don't know. The camps along the educative and scientific purpose have the role to help the youth to get to know and love the DANUBE DELTA BIOSPHERE RESERVE better. Even tough we have accomplished in the past 3 years positive results; this is the result of your constant help given to us so generously.

We will use a part of the funds to do small camps for autumn migration monitoring and to identify the environmental problems which affect the bird migration.

We hope that you will see more young peoples involved on conservation actions, on your come back in the Danube Delta, knowing this was possible only with your help and generosity you have supported us with.

Sincerely yours,

Eugen Petrescu
ROS Danube Delta Conservation
Officer

Gabriela Doresencu
President of Tulcea ROS Branch
Falco Cherrug