

DANUBE DELTA – DOBRUDJA AUTUMN TOUR with **SAKERTOURS**

25th August – 1st September, 2017



This group of Red-necked Phalaropes allowed superb close views to our 2017 autumn tour participants.
(Photo by Zoltán Baczó)

Tour leader: Zoltán Baczó

Last week of August is one of the prime time in the Danube Delta to witness bird migration along the west coast of the Black Sea. Our autumn birding tour was designed to visit the best places after birds and wildlife in the South East corner of Romania. In the first part we visited the Danube Delta and Black Sea, than Macin Mountains National Park and finished the tour at the Baragan lowland with some amazing steppe salt lakes and the last extensive steppe habitats in Romania left.

We had fabulous weather throughout the week and many fantastic sightings every day! Our list this year reached up to 174 bird species among them such highlights like Dalmatian and White Pelicans, superb views of several young Little Bitterns, Levant Sparrowhawk, Red-footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Little Crake, Dotterel, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Terek Sandpiper, Marsh Sandpiper, Pacific Golden Plover, Red-necked Phalarope, Arctic Skua, Pallas`s Gull, Thrush Nightingale,

Isabelline and Pied Wheatear, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Paddyfield Warbler, Moustached Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Collared Flycatcher, Shrike bonanza with masses of Red-backed Shrikes but also Lesser Grey and Woodchat Shrike, Golden Orioles every day, Hawfinch, Ortolan Bunting and so on.

Saturday, 25th of August

The handful group arrived to Bucharest Henri Coanda International Airport in time so we had time for birding in afternoon in the Black Sea coast. The drive down to the coast was rather fast, took 3 hours but we had seen our first Kestrels, several Red-backed Shrikes, Rollers, Marsh Harriers loads of Barn Swallows over the arable fields and few Yellow Wagtails.

We arrived in time to check some seaside wetlands right by an oil refinery station. It was a very productive spot to start the trip as we found a good selection of birds here including Purple Heron, Black-winged Stilts, two Broad-billed Sandpipers, one Terek Sandpiper, two Marsh Sandpipers, two Red-necked Phalaropes, 30+ Little Tern, Sandwich Tern, Black Tern, White-winged Black Tern and a Hoopoe. Not bad for the first day! We arrived in time to the accommodation and enjoyed the well deserved cold beer in the open terrace and a delicious dinner.

Sunday, 26th of August

We have started the day at 6.30 in the morning and had a walk around the village. Amongst first a group of 60 Bee-eaters flew across the village, than a young Cuckoo sat on a wire very close to us, than 3 Golden Orioles were spotted one after another and we all had very good scope views of these handsome birds. We finished the morning walk with a couple of Syrian Woodpeckers and walked back to the Hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we left to visit Histria area first. This treeless grassland area was an excellent spot for birds. This time we focused to a small wetland area with bushes around. We had a walk along the bushy track and had several interesting species above us like Red-breasted Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Willow Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Eastern Oliveaceous Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Red-backed Shrike. Also in this place we have seen our first group of White Pelicans, a couple of White-tailed Eagles, Gull-billed Terns and two Collared Pratincoles. Lunch break back in the Hotel than went out again for birding in the afternoon.

After lunch we drove to an abandoned rock quarry in hope to find some local Wheatear species before them all leaving to Africa. As we arrived and start scanning the area we were amazed with the quantity of birds. Loads of Red-backed Shrikes, Lesser Grey Shrike, a single young Woodchat Shrike, Bee-eaters, Rollers, Hoopoes, Long-legged Buzzard, Short-toed Eagle, Booted Eagle, a Saker Falcon over the field was great find, a Hobby and by a small pond 3 Ortolan Buntings and at least three Pied Wheatears were seen by a pond while drinking and bathing in the hot afternoon. Not far from this spot we found at least 2 Isabelline Wheatears too.

We have finished the day in a Gull roosting area, not far from the accommodation and had 2 adult Pallas's Gull and also found several Paddyfield Warbler too! What a day! Could we keep up the level of birding for the next day's too? Of course!



First winter male Pied Wheatear (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Monday, 27th of August

Usual pre breakfast walk in the village produced two Syrian Woodpeckers, Hoopoes, loads of Sand Martins over the village, Bee-eaters, Golden Oriole, Little Owl and a couple of Long-eared Owls in the Hotel garden.

Today we focused only to Vadu area, the south end of the Sinoe lagoon and we had a fantastic day here with many interesting species. First we checked a small shallow pond and found 6 young Red-necked Phalarope feeding very close to the shore but also Common, Black, Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns resting side by side within a stone's throw. From this point we drove to a place where Pacific Golden Plover were recorded. A small wetland area held good numbers of species and among them an adult Pacific Golden Plover (rarity for the country) but also Marsh Sandpiper, a group of 35 Collared Pratincoles, a Broad-billed Sandpiper among Little Stints and Curlew Sandpipers. Nice area but still plenty to discover and went visiting another lake. To reach the spot we drove through some arable fields. Two Levant Sparrowhawks and a young Montagu's Harrier were seen on the way than on the lake 4000+ Avocet together with 3000+ Mediterranean Gulls and also 6 Ruddy Shelducks amongst! Impressive site indeed!

The day was not over yet and we visited a small wooded area where we found 50+ Bee-eaters resting in the shade close to the road. Just meter far from the Bee-eaters a group of Red-footed

Falcons were resting in the shade, we counted 24. Brilliant looking birds and we all had some fabulous views.

In the way back to the accommodation we stopped by a lake where we found 53 Ferruginous Ducks, 20 Black-necked Grebes, Purple Heron, Glossy Ibis and two Dalmatian Pelicans.



Group of Collared Pratincoles at Vadu (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Tuesday, 28th of August

With some great moments we left the coastal lagoons behind and start our journey to the proper Danube Delta region. In the morning we found the usual birds in the village and a Long-eared Owl in the garden.

The usual pre breakfast walk produced a migrant Thrush Nightingale than after breakfast we left our Hotel with all our luggage's. On the way we stopped visiting an extensive forest and found a young Red-breasted Flycatcher, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Green Woodpecker (only heard), than several Marsh Tits, Jays, Nuthatch and a brief Hawfinch. From this woodland we drove straight to Murighiol harbor. We had a picnic lunch by the Danube than met with our boat driver, Romi who were with us in the next 3 days in the Delta water land.

We packed everything to the boat and started cruising down on the mighty river Danube to Sfantu Gheorghe village. This part of the tour was different but very enjoyable. We didn't waited much for the first White-tailed Eagle, than in a sandy island Caspian Tern families sat, Whiskered, Black and White-winged Black Terns constantly flew over the water and some still had nice breeding plumage. After an hour or so we entered to a lake. Before we arrived to the lake we crossed a nice forest and seen several Kingfishers. The lake had floating vegetation both side and this vegetation

was excellent for resting or hunting Squacco Herons, Wood Sandpipers, Whiskered Terns. We stopped in a place and started scanning the reed edges for Little Crake. While we waited for the Crakes a Grass Snake appeared in front of the boat with a frog in the mouth. Soon 2 young Little Crakes and 2 Water Rails were seen. We arrived in time to Sfantu Gheorghe fishing village.



Long-eared Owl in the Hotel garden (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Wednesday, 29th of August

During the pre breakfast walk we have seen a Little Crake, a couple of Reed Warblers, a Sedge Warbler and a Moustached Warbler. We had a tasty breakfast in the Hotel than left to the Sachalin Bay to discover an extensive area. On the way to the bay we saw a Cuckoo, several Kingfishers, Grey-headed Woodpecker, Golden Oriole, many Hobbies, Marsh Harrier, an Ortolan Bunting, Spotted Flycatchers and a Northern Wheatear. At the entrance of the bay many Squacco Herons were on the floating vegetation with Whiskered Terns, Little Egrets, Purple Herons, Wood Sandpipers... On the water several large size gull were feeding amongst them 3 Pallas`s Gulls, some already in winter plumage and we also counted at least 200+ White Pelicans fishing together with 800+ Great Cormorants!

We slowly reached the shallow, muddy part of the bay. This area was full of shorebirds and terns. Many Black-tailed Goodwits, Avocets, Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers, Grey Plovers, Curlew Sandpipers, Broad-billed Sandpipers, Redshanks, Spotted Redshanks, Marsh Sandpiper, Curlew, Common Terns, Sandwich Terns, Caspian Terns, Gull-billed Terns, Slender-billed Gull, White-

tailed Eagles and so on. We enjoyed so much the mornig we decided to come back here next day too.

In the afternoon we went along a channel with trees and bushes to find more migrants and Woodpeckers. It was a good sessions with Red-breasted-, Collared and Spotted Flycatchers, Eastern Oliveaceous Warblers, Savis Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, lots of Willow Warblers, 5 Grey-headed Woodpeckers and a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. We finished the day along this chanel than drove back to the Hotel for dinner.



Pallas`s Gull in the Danube Delta (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Thursday, 30th of August

During the pre breakfast walk we found again a Little Crake by a channel, than Sedge and Moustached Warbler and made a good comparison of the two species. The later species was new species to Barrie and Martin too.

After the breakfast we started the day in the same area we have been yesterday afternoon. Along the channel we found 2 hunting young Little Bitterns, a Hoopoe than stopped by a wetland close to the village. Good selections of birds were on the shallow lake including 200+ Avocets, Black-winged Stilts, Marsh Sandpipers, Caspian Terns... In the woodland we tried to find Black Woodpecker but our attempt was unsuccessful. Apparently a bird crossed the channel but only the guide saw it. Above the woodland Bee-eaters moved south, we found 3 Grey-headed Woodpeckers, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 3 Rollers and 4 Golden Orioles and several Hobbies.

In the afternoon we visited again the Sachalin bay but this time we went a bit more South. We found Spoonbills in a silent corner, than 20+ Great White Egrets, 47 Dalmatian Pelicans, Slender-billed Gull, 30+ Broad-billed Sandpipers, 100+ Redshanks, 600+ Black-tailed Goodwits, an adult Arctic Skua while chased a Sandwich Tern right in front of our boat and at least 40+ Pallas`s Gulls. We had a superb afternoon again in this magical corner of the Danube Delta.



Dalmatian Pelican, Pallas`s Gulls and waders at Sachalin, Danube Delta (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Friday, 31th of August

It was our last day in the Danube Delta. During the pre breakfast walk we made a circuit in the village and visited the nearby harbor where local fisherman`s arrived with the morning catch. We had seen four Black Redstarts in the village, Lesser White-throats, Bee-eaters, Caspian and Yellow-legged Gulls. After breakfast we left Sfantu Gheorghe and travel back to Murighiol. In the way back we have seen a beautiful dark phase Honey Buzzard over the boat, a White-tailed Eagle, Black Storks and Whiskered-, Black and White-winged Black Terns. We soon said goodbye to Romi, our boat driver and continued the journey to the Macin Mountains National Park, the oldest mountains of Romania. Before we have reached the National Park we visited an open woodland area for some additional species like Sombre Tit, Middle Spotted Woodpecker and Hawfinch. Lunch was in a roadside restaurant than drove directly to the National Park area. As soon we arrived we found a male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush and a male Pied Wheatear, a Levant Sparrowhawk, 2 young Montagu`s Harriers and a couple of Red-rumped Swallows.

With a ferry boat we crossed the Danube and reached our (last) lake side accommodation. The restaurant terrace had live music during the dinner so we had a real festive mood during our last dinner. Luckily the music stopped at 23.00 so we could enjoy our last night.



Dark morph Honey Buzzard circling over our boat (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Saturday, 1st of September

Our group had a late evening flight so we had extra time for birding today. This regions salt lakes and grasslands are amongst the top birding destinations in Romania! Before breakfast we made a walk in the park and found two Common Redstarts, a Green Woodpecker, a Grey-headed Woodpecker while on the lake several Spotted Redshanks, Black-winged Stilts, Common Shellducks and 200+ Black-necked Grebes.

After breakfast we all packed and started the day in a grassland site in search of Dotterels. Our main target for today! In the well known site we only found Golden Plovers but soon in a nearby filed we found 21 adult Dotterels. In the field we also found Black Stork, Stone Curlews, Red-footed Falcons and Montagu`s Harriers. We still had time to visit an interesting spot for more wetland birds. In the way we found Turtle Doves by the sunflower fields and 30 White Storks. On the lake side among others Collared Pratincoles, Broad-billed Sandpipers, Marsh Sandpipers, Curlews, Caspian Terns said farewell to us. The group had lunch in a restaurant where we completed our trip list than drove straight to the Bucharest Airport where this tour ended.

Thanks all of you for the great company and moments! No doubt, we had a superb birding week with lots of memorable sightings.

You can find more pictures from Autumn tours in the Danube Delta under the link below:
<https://birdwatchingdanubedelta.wordpress.com/2017/09/21/danube-delta-and-dobrudja-autumn-tour-in-2017/>

SYSTEMATIC BIRD LIST

(Total 174 bird species recorded by the group)

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: a total of 5 were seen during the week

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*: More than 300 seen during the trip, most of them at Sachalin bay, in the Danube Delta

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*: 100+ individual were seen during the trip

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*: 14 individual were seen in the first part of the tour at lake Tasaul, Vadu on 27/08

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*: Common in wetland areas

Gadwall *Anas sterpera*: lots seen during the week

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: common and numerous

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: hundreds seen in the lagoons of Black Sea

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*: 8 at Sachalin bay on day 30/08

Common Teal *Anas crecca*: common

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: common

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: common

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: 53 were seen at Nuntasi lake on day 26/08

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: common

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: common

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*: 230+ seen during the tour, biggest congregation being at Lake Sarat

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*: seen in almost every day of the tour but in small numbers. Highest number counted inside the Delta, at Sachalin were we counted 47 individuals

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: much commoner than Dalmatian, seen almost every day of the tour. Highest numbers were counted at Sachalin where we counted 400+ individuals. A total of 1060 seen during the week

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*: common

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: very common, 800+ hunting at Sachalin bay on 31/08

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*: two young were seen by a channel on the Danube Delta on day 30/08



Young Little Bittern and a Squacco Heron (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: common

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: seen almost every day of the tour, but the best was 200 individual flying in V shape over our boat on day 28/08

Great White Egret *Ardea alba*: common

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: common

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*: 70 + seen mainly at Sachalin bay and Erenciuc lake in the Delta

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*: 160 seen during the week

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: 1 was seen in a field on the last day

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: 4 were seen at Vadu

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: only 10 were seen at Sachalin bay on day 30/08

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*: seen almost every day of the tour. A total of 12 individual were recorded by our group

Osprey *Pansion haliaetus*: only 1 was seen during the week

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*: 1 was seen at Sitorman Quarry on 26/08

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: common over wetlands and even over agricultural fields. Seen every day of the tour

Montagu`s Harrier *Circus pygargus*: 10 were seen during the week

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*: 8 were seen during the trip

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: several seen here and there

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*: 1 young dark phase was seen in the Danube Delta on 31/08.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: one was seen on 28/08

Levant Sparrowhawk *Acipiter brevipes*: 2 at Horia woodland on 27/08 and 1 was seen at Macin Mountains on 31/08

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: seen almost daily throughout the week

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*: a total 28 individual were seen during the week but the best view was at Vadu on 27/08 when a group of 24 individuals (young and adults) were seen very close while resting on a tree



Young Red-footed Falcon and an adult male Montagu`s Harrier (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*: most numerous in the Danube Delta. We have seen at least 30 individuals (journs and adults) during the week

Saker *Falco cherrug*: 1 young bird was seen at Sitorman Quarry on 26/08

European Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*: 2 were seen at lake Erenciuc in the Danube Delta on 28/08

Little Crane *Porzana parva*: 4 juveniles were seen well inside the Danube Delta at Lake Erenciuc and Sfantu Gheorghe

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Common

Common Coot *Fulica atra*: Common

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*: 20+ seen at Sachalin Bay, Danube Delta

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*: 4000+ seen at Lake Tasaul, than 200 at Sfantu Gheorghe, Danube Delta

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: 100+ seen during the trip

Eurasian Stone Curlew *Burhinus oediconemus*: 5 individual were seen in the Baragan lowland, in the last part of the tour

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*: 2 were seen at Histria on day 26/08, than 35 seen at Vadu on 27/08 and 9 at Balta Alba on 01/09

Little-ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: 38 individual were seen during the week

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: most numerous at Sachalin bay where we counted 100 individuals. A total of 140 were seen during the week

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarolla*: 60+ seen during the tour at Navodari and Sachalin bay

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*: 22 were seen at Gulianca field on 01/09

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*: an adult bird was seen at Vadu on day 27/08

Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*: 21 adult were seen at a traditional moulting site.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*: common in suitable areas

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: 2 were seen at Sachalin bay

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: 4 were seen at the Sachalin bay in the Danube Delta

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: 50+ seen during the tour

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 80+ were seen during the tour

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*: 38 were seen during the tour

Temminck`s Stint *Calidris temminckii*: 9 were seen during the tour

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: common

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: common

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: 7 were seen during the week

Redshank *Tringa totanus*: 120+ seen during the tour, most numerous at Sachalin bay

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: over 120+ were seen during the tour

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: 29 were seen during the tour

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: 39 were seen during the tour

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: 1 was found at Navodari on 25/08

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: common, over 700+ seen duiring the week

Curlew *Numenius arquata*: 55 were seen during the week

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: most numerous at Vadu where we counted 100+ on day 27/08

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: 13 were seen during the week

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: common

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*: 1 adult was seen over the Sachalin bay on 30/08



Arctic Skua chasing a Sandwich Tern; young White-winged Black Tern (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*: common on the Black sea coast

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: most common large size gull, seen every day of the tour

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: common

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*: only one 1cy bird at Sachalin bay on 30/08

Little Gull *Larus minutus*: common

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*: 3000+ were seen on day 27/08 in a single lake!

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*: a total of 45 were seen during the week!

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*: 30 were seen at Navodari on 25/08

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandwicensis*: 40+ at Navodari than 300+ at Sachalin bay

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*: 21 were counted during the week

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: common

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*: 57 individual were seen during the week

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: common

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: several seen in the coastal wetlands at Navodari and Vadu

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera*: seen every day of the tour, a total of 200+ were seen during the week

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*: common

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*: 10 were seen during the week

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*: 1 was seen during the week

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: common and numerous

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*: 46 were seen, mainly birds in migration

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: 2 young birds were seen during the week, first at Sinoe village, second in the Danube Delta

Little Owl *Athene noctua*: 3 were seen during the week

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*: a total of 3 were seen in the Hotel garden in Sinoe on 27/08

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: 10 seen in Dobrudja

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: seen mainly in the Danube Delta

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*: groups constantly moved South every day

Roller *Coracias garrulous*: seen in many places around Dobrudja, Danube Delta and Baragan Plain

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus minor*: 1 was seen well in Sfantu Gheorghe on 29/08

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus medius*: we have heard several time and seen well once on 30/08

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopus syriacus*: a couple was seen two times in Sinoe than another one macin

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*: 4 were seen mainly in the Delta

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*: 1 male was seen at a park by the Sarat Lake

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: 9 were seen in total during the week

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*: 1 was seen nearby Vadu

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: 8 seen during the week

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: common

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: common

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*: common

Red-rumped Swallow *Hirundo daurica*: a couple was seen in the Macin Mountains National park on 30/08

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: 3 were seen in the first half of the trip

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: common

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*: common migrant

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*: one was heard at Babadag forest on 30/08

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: 3 were seen in the Danube Delta than 2 in the park by Lake Sarat

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: 3 were seen at Macin Mountains than 4 at Sfantu Gheorghe village

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*: 15+ seen in rocky habitats around Dobrudja

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*: 3 were seen at Sitorman on 26/08

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*: 3 were seen at Sitorman on 26/08 than another male was seen at the Macin Mountains

Whinchat *Saxicola rubicola*: 7 were seen during the week

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*: 2 were seen at a park by Lake Sarat, Braila

Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*: one male was seen well in the Macin Mountains on 31/0/

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*: 2 were seen at Babadag

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: 20+ seen during the week

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: 2 were seen in Sfantu Gheorghe, Danube Delta

Savis`s Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*: 1 was seen in the reed of Nuntasi lake than one more at Lake Erenciuc

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: several seen here and there

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*: 5 were seen at Grindul Lupilor on day 26/08

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*: one was seen at Histria on day 26/08

Olivaceous Warbler *Hippolais pallida*: one was found in Histria, than another one in Sfantu Gheorghe

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*: 30+ seen during the week, common migrant in this time of the year

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: 1 was seen at Histria, than 2 in the Danube Delta

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: 1 was seen and heard at Lake Erenciuc, inside the Danube Delta

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*: common migrant in this time of the year, seen 50+ during the week

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*: 5 were seen at Histria, one at Babadag, than 4 more in the Danube Delta

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*: 2 were found at Sfantu Gheorghe, Danube Delta on 29/08

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*: 3 were seen and several more heard at Babadag woodland on 28/08

Great Tit *Parus major*: common

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*: common

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*: we found two birds near Horia on day 31/08

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*: common in the Danube Delta

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*: several seen and heard near Babadag and Horia woodlands

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*: common migrant and roadside bird, a total of 30+ seen

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: in some places the commonest migrant

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*: a young birds was found at the quarry on day 26/08

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: 5 were seen during the week at Horia woodlands and Lake Sarat Park

Common Magpie *Pica pica*: common

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*: common

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*: common

Hooded Crow *Corvus c cornix*: common

Raven *Corvus corax*: only 1 were seen at Sachalin feeding by a dead cow on 29/08

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: common, seen in large numbers

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: we had some brilliant views in Sinoe, a total of 14 seen on the tour this year

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: common

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: common

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: was common nearby Horia and Babadag woodlands

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: several seen here and there

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*: 1 was seen at Horia woodland on 29/08

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*: 7 were seen well at Horia woodland in flight mainly

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* : 3 were seen during the week at Histria on 26/08

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*: common farmland bird

MAMMALS:

Roe Deer
Musk Rat

REPTILES:

Spur-thighed Tortoise
European Pond Terrapin
Dice Snake
Grass Snake
Balkan Wall Lizard
Green Lizard

AMPHIBIANS:

Edible Frog
Marsh Frog

BUTTERFLIES

Common Blue
Clouded Yellow
Small White
Painted Lady
Red Admiral
Meadow Brown
Silver-washed Fritillary
Common Glider
Cardinal
Comma



Grass Snake with an Edible Frog; Common Glider (Photo: Zoltán Baczó)