

DANUBE ELTA – DOBRUDJA AUTUMN TOUR

with **SAKERTOUR**

29 August – 5 September 2015



Visible migration of Purple Herons (Photo: Zoltán Baczó) and a Young Little Bittern with a Fire-bellied Toad (Photo: Glen Novinger)

Leader: Zoltán Baczó

Danube Delta and coastal Dobrudja in autumn is an excellent and easily accessible locations for birding in Europe. This time of the year lots of birds are on the way to the wintering areas to Africa, Asia or Middle-East, using this Black Sea cost flyway therefore there is always a lot to see on this tour. The end of August and early September is one of the best time here for shorebirds but also good for passerines and raptors. This is really a time to see the migration along the Black Sea cost. This flyway was not widely recognized and publicized in the past but recently more and more articles focused on this eastern European migration route. This time of the year, at the very end of summer the weather is generally sunny and pleasant though sometimes it can be hot in the middle of the day.

In the first part of this trip we focused to the Black Sea coastal wetlands and steppe habitats then went along the most Southern branch of the Danube River. We have visited the area where the Danube flows into the Black Sea and the shallow coastal bay attracts huge number of migrants. The last part of the tour took us to the Baragan Great Plain in search of the mighty Dotterels. So this exciting tour was a great success in 2015 again. We had a fabulous birding week with a total of 176 birds recorded within just six full days!

I would characterize this tour as a comfortable and highly enjoyable trip with many birds and a wide range of specialties. During this autumn adventure to the Danube Delta we focusing on the very best places for migrants in the right time of the year.

Saturday, 29th of August

The group arrived to Bucharest Airport in early afternoon and we drove along a comfortable motorway to the coastal area. The drive until the coast was fast but even so we encountered such roadside birds like Black Stork, Marsh Harrier, Kestrel, Roller, Bee-eaters. Before we reached our accommodation we stopped nearby a rock quarry. Here we could spend longer time in the nice afternoon light and find our first Isabelline Wheatear, Red-backed Shrike, Lesser Grey Shrike, Hoopoe, Long-legged Buzzard while some distant White Pelicans fishing on a lake were a nice bonus. The best of all however was a migrating adult male Levant Sparrowhawk. Just before we arrived to our rural hotel we stopped again to check a Starling flock and suddenly we spotted a juvenile Rosy Starling, which is a rare bird! This was an excellent start of the tour!

Sunday, 30th of August

Early next morning we took a short pre-breakfast walk around the village. Amongst the first birds we found a Middle Spotted Woodpecker, than Red-backed Shrike, Hoopoe, Goldfinch, Little Owl and migrating Bee-eaters. We walked back to the hotel and had a substantial breakfast.

Our first stop of the morning was at Histria, a famous archeological site but also famous for its birdlife. Our main target was the Stone Curlew and we managed to find three individuals. When they are hiding, they can be tricky to find but with patient and silence the birds started feeding again and everybody had brilliant scope views. Close to this site we also had several Hobbies and two Gull-billed Tern.

Later we drove to Navodari city, to check some seaside pools for more waterbirds, especially shorebirds. We made an excellent decision and found four species of Grebes in one site - Little-, Black-necked, Red-necked and Great Crested Grebes – as well as a fine selection of terns such as Caspian, Little, Sandwich, Common, Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns. Other goodies included Pygmy Cormorants, Little Gull, Little Ringed Plover, Greenshank and a nice surprise in the form of two Terek Sandpipers. We had our lunch at Navodari and seen the only Common Swift of the tour from the restaurant terrace.



Hiding Stone Curlew (Photo: Zoltan Baczó)

On the way back to the accommodation we found a large flock of migrating Yellow Wagtails, a Lesser Grey Shrike, several Red-footed Falcons, Lesser Spotted Eagle but best of all an adult Saker

Falcon! Saker is a rare breeding bird in Romania with only 1-2 pairs known from the entire Dobrudja region. However in late summer there are more records as they follow the migrating birds.

Back in the Hotel garden we found a Long-eared Owl and decide to check one more place before the dinner. This late afternoon visit was optional and only part of the group visited a nice mudflat just 30 minutes away from the Hotel. What we witnessed here remained unforgettable for all of us. Within an hour or so we have counted 1620 Purple Herons migrating South in groups of 100 – 150. Some groups had Little Egrets and Night Herons as well, but in smaller numbers. The mudflat were fantastic too, the shrinking water and exposed mudflat was ideal for shorebirds. We counted 22 Broad-billed Sandpipers, several Marsh Sandpipers and Spotted Redshanks, a Jack Snipe, 38 Gull-billed Terns, 60 Caspian Terns and over 200 White Pelicans.

Monday, 31st of August

During the pre-breakfast walk in the village we have seen several Golden Orioles, Thrush Nightingale and Wryneck in a same bush, the only Great Reed Warbler of the tour, migrating Bee-eaters and many Red-breasted Flycatcher.

After our usual tasty breakfast we have visited Vadu for more wetland birds. We first stopped nearby a small lake where we saw six Red-necked Phalaropes, several Slender-billed Gulls, 2 Dalmatian Pelicans, 400 White Pelicans, Ferruginous Duck, lots of Marsh Harriers, 2 Montagu`s Harriers and many Red-footed Falcons. Along the Black Sea shore we found an over-summering Great Black-backed Gull, Sanderlings and many Sandwich Terns.

We had our lunch in a roadside restaurant than visited again a rock quarry for Wheatears. The main target was the Pied Wheatear and we finally managed to see a juvenile bird. Beside the Pied Wheatear we found four Isabelline Wheatears, Red-backed Shrike, Long-legged Buzzard and finished the day the same place like a day before. The mudflat changed a lot, the water surface decreased noticeably but was still good for birding. This time we found two Pallas`s Gulls, 1 Baltic Gull, 200 Avocets, 32 Broad-billed Sandpipers, 50+ Greenshanks, 100+ Black-tailed Goodwits, 60 Gull-billed Terns and 50+ Caspian Terns just to name but a few.

Tuesday, 1st of September

During the pre-breakfast walk we found a nice male Syrian Woodpecker, several young Red-breasted Flycatchers, Golden Orioles, Long-eared Owl was still in the Hotel Garden, Hoopoe, and Little Owl. After breakfast we left Sinoe and started driving to Murighiol area where we connected with our boat. Our boat driver was already in the meeting point so we were quickly all set for the journey. We had a very enjoyable boat ride exploring parts of the Saint Gheorghe branch. On the way we encountered over 60 Black Storks, four White-tailed Eagles and also spotted a few Black and White-winged Black Tern in amongst the large number of Whiskered Terns. A short visit to a nearby lake accessed by a nice wooded channel gave us Wood Warbler, Kingfisher, lots of Squacco Herons, Dalmatian Pelicans and a skulking juvenile Little Crake. By the early afternoon arrived to Saint Gheorghe village right on the edge of the Black Sea where the Saint George arm of the Danube flows into the sea. The river has also created a cc 20 km long sandy 'peninsula' into the sea called the Sachalin Island. It is variably in connection with the mainland but sometimes separated by shallow water. This is a fantastic birding area and we only visit this place on the autumn tour.



Juvenile Little Crake (Photo: Zoltan Baczo)

Wednesday, 2nd of September

We had the usual pre breakfast walk around the Hotel which was lying right by the side of the Danube River. Amongst first birds was a juvenile Little Crake in the open, Sedge Warbler, Hobby, lots of Caspian Gulls, Great Spotted Woodpecker and a Grey-headed Woodpecker.

After breakfast we went straight to explore the Sachaling bay, an unforgettable site for birders and was a real privilege to visit because is so remote and hardly accessible. Along the channels we saw a Cuckoo, lots of Hobbies, Spotted Flycatcher and a juvenile Levant Sparrowhawk. When we arrived to the bay masses of birds waited us, like 60 Squacco Heron, lots of Purple Heron, Spoonbills, Wood Sandpiper on the floating vegetation, fishing White Pelicans, Caspian Terns, Sandwich Terns, Pallas`s Gulls, Dalmatian Pelican and thousands of fishing Great Cormorants. We approached the sand bank as close as we could than wade across the ten meters stretch in ankle deep water until we reached the shore of Sachalin Island. From here we did most of our birding on foot with regular stops to scan the thousands of birds by scope. We saw hundreds of Common and Sandwich Terns, 50 Little Terns, lots of Black-tailed Godwits, Redshanks, Avocets, Oystercatchers, Common Ringed Plovers, Golden and Grey Plovers, Broad-billed Sandpipers, Slender-billed Gulls, a single Common Gulls, Sanderlings, Pintails, Garganeys, Common Teals and various other waterbirds. What an experience it was to see so many birds at one place!



Birding at Sachalin bay, Danube Delta 2016

We were back to the Hotel for lunch and little rest before we started birding along Tataru channel in the afternoon. Close to the Hotel a juvenile Little Bittern were discovered and seen very well by all of us. Than we stopped to check some shallow lakes close to the village. This lake was fully packed with birds and here we counted 170 Broad-billed Sandpipers, 2 Knots, lots of Avocets, several Black-winged Stilts, Marsh Sandpipers, Greenshanks, and our first Temminck`s Stints. We continued by boat further south in the channel and with regular stops we managed to find a very nice Black Woodpecker, several Grey-headed Woodpeckers and many Bee-eaters.



Flock of Broad-billed Sandpipers (Photo: Zoltan Baczo)

Thursday, 3rd of September

During the pre-breakfast walk we have spotted several Lesser Whitethroats, Savi's Warblers, Common Redstarts, Reed Warblers, Sedge Warblers, flock of Long-tailed Tits and Willow Warblers. In the harbor we saw the fisherman's boats coming in from the sea to the fish collecting place. They were mainly catching European Sprat.

We start the day along the Tataru channel and found a superb Little Bittern which struggled to swallow a Fire-bellied Toad. We could see him just 1.5 meter distance from the boat and was really amazing. Thanks to Glen we got a nice picture for the cover of this report! Along the channel we had more goodies like Red-backed Shrikes, Rollers, Kestrels and two Black Woodpecker. The lake behind the village held the same variety of species like yesterday.

In the afternoon we have visited the Bay again but now in different light conditions. In the afternoon the sun was behind us and got a different light on the birds. Over the sea we saw five Arctic Skuas, minimum 300 White Pelicans in the bay, over 1000 Greylag Goose, several Marsh Harriers, a nice gathering of 13 Pallas's Gulls, many Dalmatian Pelicans and so on. It was fantastic experience once again.

Wednesday, 4th of September

The pre breakfast walk new result were a nice Moustached Warbler (was a write-in for our list), Sedge Warbler, Savi's Warbler and a Water Rail close to the Hotel. After the usual tasty breakfast we left Sf. Gheorghe village and drive back to Murighiol with our boat. We said goodbye to Romi, our boat driver and started driving north. Our first stop was in a wooded valley to find some more woodland birds and we encountered our first Hawfinches, Sombre Tit, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Jay and Green Woodpecker. We had our lunch in a roadside restaurant where two Barn Swallow nests were built just 2.5 meter high and the adults were still feeding their fully fledged youngsters.

After lunch we had a journey across the Danube River and we were soon in a heavily grazed plain where we were hoping to connect with the mighty Eurasian Dotterels. As soon as we got out of the car we spotted a group of 23 Golden Plovers feeding on the overgrazed field, several Red-footed Falcons and a young Collared Pratincole - the only one of the tour. After a little search we finally found a group of 11 adult Dotterels. We could even show these special birds to the land owner as he came closer to check what we are looking at. It was a superb finish to our week long tour to this fantastic part of Europe! Later we arrived to our last Hotel in the edge of Braila close to a nice salt lake. We still had chance to find some new birds next morning.

Thursday, 5th of September

Our last day and due to the late afternoon flight we had time to do the usual pre breakfast walk. First we checked the lake where hundreds of Black-headed Gulls spent the night, but we also seen over 100 Shelducks, 100 Spotted Redshanks and around 80 Black-necked Grebes. In the park we could hear Syrian and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers calling and also managed to see Lesser Spotted Woodpecker as a pair was feeding on the nearby trees. We also had seen Grey-headed and Green Woodpecker here. So all in all we have seen 8 species of Woodpeckers on this tour, including Wryneck!

After breakfast we start the journey back to Bucharest Airport and on the journey we had 46 Black Stork and 80 Little Egrets by an irrigation canal.

It was great party of birders and an excellent week of birding with many special birds and experiences!

You can find more pictures under our Danube Delta and Dobrudja Birding Blog:

<https://birdwatchingdanubedelta.wordpress.com/2015/10/13/danube-delta-in-the-end-of-august-2015/>

SYSTEMATIC BIRD LIST

- Grey Partridge** *Perdix perdix*: A total of 6 individual were seen on the 30th and 31th of August in Dobrudja.
- Common Pheasant** *Phasianus colchicus*: Just a few were seen.
- Greylag Goose** *Anser anser*: More than 1500 seen during the trip, most of them at Sachalin bay, in the Danube Delta.
- Shelduck** *Tadorna tadorna*: About 170 individual were seen during the trip.
- Mute Swan** *Cygnus olor*: Common in wetland areas.
- Gadwall** *Anas sterpera*: 100+ were seen at Sinoe.
- Mallard** *Anas platyrhynchos*: Common and numerous.
- Northern Shoveler** *Anas clypeata*: Several seen in the lagoons of the Black Sea.
- Northern Pintail** *Anas acuta*: We counted 66 at Sachalin bay.
- Common Teal** *Anas crecca*: Over 700 seen during the tour.
- Garganey** *Anas querquedula*: About 120 seen during the tour.
- Common Pochard** *Aythya ferina*: Just 2 seen at Vadu.
- Red-crested Pochard** *Netta rufina*: Just 4 seen at Vadu.
- Ferruginous Duck** *Aythya nyroca*: Just 4 seen at Vadu.
- Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Common.
- Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*: Common.
- Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*: About 90+ seen during the tour, biggest congregation at Lake Sarat, near Braila.
- Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps griseginea*: One was seen at Navodari.
- Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelecanus crispus*: It was seen in good numbers inside the Delta this year. We counted 40 individuals during the tour.
- White Pelican** *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: More common than Dalmatian, seen almost every day of the tour.
- Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*: Common.
- Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax carbo*: Common.
- Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*: We saw 4 in the Delta really well, mainly young birds.
- Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*: About 20 at Sinoe and 9 in the Delta.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea*: Common.
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea*: We have witnessed a visible migration on the 2nd day when we have counted over 1600 individuals. It was amazing!
- Great White Egret** *Ardea alba*: About 20 seen during the trip.
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta*: About 100+ seen during the trip.
- Squacco Heron** *Ardeola ralloides*: A total of 120 + seen, mainly at Sachalin bay in the Delta.
- White Stork** *Ciconia ciconia*: Just 8 were seen on 4th September.
- Black Stork** *Ciconia nigra*: About 60+ seen migrating over the Danube Delta.
- Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*: A single flock of 20 birds seen over Histria on 31 of August.
- Spoonbill** *Platalea leucorodia*: Just 10 were seen inside the Danube Delta.
- White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus albicilla*: Five birds were seen in the Danube Delta.
- Lesser Spotted Eagle** *Aquila pomarina*: Five were seen over Dobrudja.
- Short-toed Eagle** *Circaetus gallicus*: Two were seen during the week.
- Booted Eagle** *Aquila pennata*: Just a singleton was seen in Dobrudja.
- Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus aeruginosus*: Common over wetlands and even over agricultural fields.
- Montagu`s Harrier** *Circus pygargus*: A total of 6 were seen during the week.
- Pallid Harrier** *Circus macrourus*: Just an adult female was seen close to Sinoe.
- Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo rufinus*: A total of nine were seen during the trip.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: Common.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Acipiter brevipes*: An adult male were seen migrating over Sitorman quarry, later we also had a juvenile bird inside the Danube Delta.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: Common.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*: Regularly seen in small numbers.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*: Common in the Danube Delta.

Saker *Falco cherrug*: An adult bird was seen close to Sinoe.

European Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*: One was seen near Sf. Gheorghe in the Danube Delta.

Little Crake *Porzana parva*: Two juvenile birds were seen well inside the Danube Delta.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Common.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*: Common.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*: Two were seen at Navodari, and 30 at Sachalin Bay.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*: About 350 were seen during the week.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: 13 seen during the trip.

Eurasian Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*: 3 were seen at Histria.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*: A single young bird was seen at Gulianca on 4th September.

Little-ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: It was seen in bigger numbers at Sachalin Bay.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: 35+ at Sachalin.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarolla*: About 18 seen during the tour at Sinoe and Sachalin.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*: Just one was seen at Sachalin and 23 more at Gulianca.

Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*: We managed to see eleven adult birds at a traditional moulting site. A real highlight of the tour.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*: Common.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: Regularly seen along the Black Sea shore.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: Seven seen during the tour.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: About 22 were seen during the tour.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*: An amazing 225 were seen during the tour!

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: Just two seen near Sf. Gheorghe in the Danube Delta.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: Common.

Knot *Calidris canutus*: Two juvenile bird were found near Sf. Gheorghe in the Danube Delta.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: About 70 seen during the week.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*: Just five were seen during the week.

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*: Two were seen at Midia, Black Sea shore.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*: A total of 92 seen during the tour, most numerous at Sachalin.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: Over 200 seen at a shallow salt lakes in Sinoe and Braila.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: About 16 were seen during the trip.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*: About 31 were seen, mainly at Sinoe.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: Common.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*: About 46 seen during the week.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: Just 16 seen during the week.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*: We had one at Sinoe on 30th of August.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*: 6 were seen at Vadu on 31st of August.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: Common.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*: Five were seen over the Black Sea on the 3rd September.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*: Common.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: Common.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: Common.

Slender-billed Gull *Larus genei*: Three were seen at Vadu and six at Sachalin bay.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*: About 13 were seen during the week.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*: Common.

‘Baltic’ Gull *Larus fuscus fuscus*: Just one was seen at Sinoe and 13 at Sachalin bay.

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*: One over summering individual at Vadu. Rarity.

Common Gull *Larus canus*: An immatur was seen at Sachalin bay.

Pallas’s Gull *Larus ichthyaetus*: A total of seven were seen during the week.

Little Tern *Sternula albiforns*: About 50 at Navodari and 50 more at Sachalin.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandwicensis*: Common. Up to 500 at Sachalin.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*: Over 60 were counted at Sinoe on 31 of August buti t was regular in small numbers.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: Common.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*: Over 60 were seen at Sinoe and 30 seen at Sachalin.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: Common.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: Just six were seen during the trip.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucoptera*: Over 40 were seen during the week.

Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia*: Common.

Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*: Just a few were seen during the week.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: Common.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*: Just a few were seen during the week.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: Two juvemil birds were seen in the Danube Delta.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*: A total of five seen during the week.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*: One was seen really well in Sinoe.

Common Swift *Apus apus*: Two were seen at Navodari during lunch time.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: Common.

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

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*: Groups constantly moving South every day.

Roller *Corracias garrulous*: Seen in many places around Dobrudja.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus minor*: Two were seen at Braila.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus medius*: Three were seen during the week.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopus syriacus*: One male was seen well at Sinoe village.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*: About five were seen mainly in the Delta.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*: Just three were seen in the Danube Delta.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*: Two were seen at Babadag Forest near Horia.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: A total of 13 sightings in total.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*: One was seen well at Sinoe on 31 of August.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*: One was seen nearby Sinoe.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: Common.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: Common.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Common.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*: Common.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: A total of five were seen in the first half of the trip.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: Common.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*: Common and numerous.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*: One was seen at Sinoe village and two more in the Delta.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: Two birds were seen during the week.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: Just one was seen at Sitorman.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*: Commonly seen in rocky habitats around Dobrudja.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*: Up to 10 were seen on the very first day.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*: One was seen on 31st of August.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubicola*: A total of six seen during the week.

Black Bird *Turdus merula*: One was seen in the Delta.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*: Two were seen at Sfantu Gheorghe.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*: One was seen at Sfantu Gheorghe.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: About 10 were seen during the week.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: Just four were seen during the week.

Savis`s Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*: Mainly heard the typical metal chatting but seen several time well at Sfantu Gheorghe.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: Several seen here and there.

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*: One was seen at Sfantu Gheorghe village on the day 4th of September.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*: Just one was seen at Sinoe.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus throchilus*: Common migrant.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: Seen and heard around Lake Erenciuc, inside the Danube Delta.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*: Common migrant.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*: Common autumn migrant along the Black Sea.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*: Two were seen near Horia.

Great Tit *Parus major*: Common.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*: Common.

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*: One was seen briefly near Horia.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*: A group of five were seen in the Danube Delta.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*: Three were seen near Vadu.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*: Several seen near Horia woodland.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*: Two were seen near Horia woodland.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*: Common migrant and roadside bird.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: Common.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: One near Horia woodland.

Common Magpie *Pica pica*: Common.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*: Common.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*: Common.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*: Common.

Raven *Corvus corax*: Four were seen during the week.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: Common, seen in large numbers.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*: A juvenile bird was seen near Nuntas on 29th of August.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: We had some brilliant views, seen almost every day on the tour.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Common.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Common.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: It was common in the ‘Horia woodland’.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: Several were seen here and there.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*: Seen well at Horia woodland while drinking.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* : Two were seen during the week.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella*: Two were seen during the week.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*: A common farmland bird.