

DANUBE DELTA - DOBRUDJA SPRING TOUR
with **SAKERTOUR**
19-26 May 2017



Paddyfield Warbler (Sándor Borza)

Leader: Sándor Borza

The Danube Delta and Dobrudja region is one of the finest birdwatching destinations in Europe and undoubtedly May is one of the best periods to visit this fantastic region! On this tour we cover a wide range of habitats with a wide range of special birds. Late May is probably the very best time to find the local resident breeders plus a fine selection of migratory birds as well. Our 2017 spring tour was a very successful one again with a long list of goodies! It was a really enjoyable trip with a lot of quality birding and just lots of birds everywhere. We recorded 179 species during this 8 days trip (with 6 and a half day birding) and only three of these were heard only. What is even more important we saw all the specialties and target species very well! The weather wasn't on our side in the whole tour. The beginning of the week it was rather cold and windy with several heavy rain showers. On the last two birding days had got nice and clear, almost summary hot weather but we sneaked in some extra shady breaks with excellent lunches. This year's highlights were White and Dalmatian Pelican, Ferruginous Duck, Little Bittern, Red-footed Falcon, Saker Falcon, Levant

Sparrowhawk, Collared Pratincole, Eurasian Stone-curlew, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Pallas's Gull, Calandra Lark, Isabelline and Pied Wheatears, Sombre Tit, Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, Eastern Olivaceous, Barred and Paddyfield Warblers, Red-breasted and Collared Flycatchers and Rose-coloured Starling.

Friday, 19th of May

Group members were picked up at the Bucharest International Airport and the nearest hotel but because of a late arriving flight we had no time for much birding on the first afternoon. could only in late afternoon. We had a rather calm and uneventful drive along the fast motorway to Constanta, which is the biggest city along the Romanian Black-sea coast. We had a few European Rollers and Red-footed Falcons on the drive but it was already dark when we rolled into our hotel in the village of Sinoe.

Saturday, 20th of May

Early in the morning we took a short pre-breakfast walk within Sinoe village. Our main target here would have been the Syrian Woodpecker which usually breeds in villages where old orchards or walnut trees are around. Unfortunately it was heard drumming but did not show at this occasion. We saw our first Hoopoes and Spanish Sparrows of the trip. We walked back to the hotel and had breakfast at 7:00 what became our regular breakfast time during the trip. After breakfast we drove to Histria. We were really lucky as we spotted the declining Grey Partridge near the road. It is not a common sight nowadays! Histria had an old castle remnant, which had a little park with trees and bushes. This „green patch” collected lots of migrants such as Icterine Warbler, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Lesser Grey Shrikes.



Grey Partridge (left) and Long-eared Owl chick (right) (Sándor Borza)

Following the bushes we checked the impressive wetland near Histria with lots of goodies. When we were walking to the observation point we saw a chick of Long-eared Owl and the first big flock of pelicans. We had a big wader flock - mainly sandpipers and plovers - which had several breeding plumaged Broad-billed Sandpipers and Kentish Plovers. This former is a regular passage bird here in late May and we enjoy great looks of it every year. Following a nice lunch we drove to a quarry. Here we got to see well all wheatear species of the region (Pied, Isabelline, Northern). In addition we saw Long-legged Buzzard, Ortolan Bunting and Common Linnet as well. The quarry is surrounded by farmlands where we managed to track down Black-headed Bunting, Calandra Lark and Short-toed Lark. Close to Sinoe there is a shallow lagoon, with plenty of mudflats, surrounded by deep water ponds and reed beds. This area was our last stop for the day which was amazing and the 'most birdy' area of the tour. Hundreds of waders and gulls were present and we found two key species of the tour here! We had a magnificent view of Pallas's Gulls and astonishing numbers of Broad-billed

Sandpipers (around 300). We could study the different plumages of Pallas's Gull as we had adults and immatures. Supporting cast included Caspian Tern and Mediterranean Gulls.



Pallas's Gulls in the flock of Caspian Gull (and bonus was a Caspian Tern) (Sándor Borza)

Sunday, 21st of May

Our first birding stop was near Vadu. This place have different sort of wetlands from roadside duck ponds to brackish lagoons, the most southerly tip of the Danube Delta lagoons system. Here we added more waders to our growing list such as Temminck's Stint, Common Redshank and Black Stilt. Other interesting species here included Ruddy Shelduck, Glossy Ibis and Little Gull (up to 400). In the surroundings we have visited a Bee-eater colony in length, admiring these fantastic and most colourful European birds. Our next port of call was the sea coast, which again added several species to the list like Sandwich Tern and Little Tern. Finally we also found a singing Paddyfield Warbler in a suitable looking reedbed, and had excellent looks of this Danube Delta specialty! We visited a big port close to Navodari which has a few artificial ponds. This place gave us Tufted Duck and Greater Scaup. Later we drove towards Cheia gorge area where most of the afternoon was spent. Along the road we had several stops with Booted Eagle, Short-toed Eagle, Levant Sparrowhawk and Red-rumped Swallow. When we reached the entrance of the gorge we stopped again and scanned rocks and bushes. We could see Black Redstart, Turtle Dove, Ortolan Buntings again and Pied Wheatears.

Monday, 22nd of May

We had another pre-breakfast birding around the hotel and this time secured great looks of Syrian Woodpeckers. We also had two bonus birds – not particularly garden species – a Thrush Nightingale and an Eastern Olivaceous Warbler. After breakfast we left Sinoe behind and drove towards Tulcea and our next destination: the mighty Danube Delta! We still had a longer stop near Babadag. The Babadag-hills have an extensive oak forest which was a new

habitat for the tour and inevitably with several new birds to look for! When we were walking on a nice forest trail where we heard Icterine and Wood Warblers constantly. In the next hour we managed to find Middle-spotted Woodpecker, Marsh Tit, Red-breasted Flycatcher and many common forest species. When we reached the port of Tulcea we changed our car to a boat and embarked on the Delta adventure of the trip. In the Danube Delta one can do birdwatching only with a boat as this is the only way of transport. We use the boat as a car and with regular 'roadside stops' wherever some interesting bird turns up. The Delta has several new habitat for us such as small well vegetated channels, various sized lakes, poplar and willow forests and vast reedbeds. Because of the late departure, we were straight heading towards Mila 23 which was our base for the coming days. On the way however we connected with many interesting species like Little Bittern, Olivaceous Warbler and Thrush Nightingale. We also had good views of European Wildcat from the boat. We heard several Grey-headed Woodpeckers and a very tame adult White-tailed Eagle, which we could approach as close as 30 meters! What a beauty!



Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (left) and White-tailed Eagle (right) (Sándor Borza)

Tuesday, 23rd of May

After a nice breakfast we were in our boat again. Today we planned to explore the surroundings of the Mila 23 area. We took a longer boat trip before lunch and visited an extensive channel system and various lakes. The highlights of this trip were flocks of Great-White Pelican (up to 200 individuals), breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebes, a fine Black Woodpecker, Savi's Warbler and many Glossy Ibises. We heard several Common Redstart and Garden Warbler on the way too. We arrived a Rook's colony which had got a few pairs of Red-footed Falcon. At noon we were back for a nice lunch and little break in the heat of the day. In the afternoon we only took a shorter trip around our hotel. This was very enjoyable with many great views of the various special delta birds like Squacco Heron, more Glossy Ibises and many pelicans. It was truly memorable day!

Wednesday, 24th of May

This morning we were to visit Letea forest which is a very interesting area. It is located in a huge sandbank with dunes which is in the heart of the delta. This area is big enough to host three villages where fishermen live, a big alkaline pond and a huge, dry oak forest. The boat trip was rather long from our hotel but with birds constantly seen along the way it seemed rather short. The first new species was a Sedge Warbler along the channel to Letea. At the little harbour a car was waiting for us with a local guide. Firstly we visited an alkaline pond, which gave a great views of Little Ringed Plovers and Common Greenshank. Besides that we could see many Collared Pratincoles, Kentish Plover and more Broad-billed Sandpipers. Our next aim was to get to the dry oak forest. We took a short walk in this lovely place, where we

saw Collared Flycatcher and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. We were invited by our driver to have a meal in their house. It was a real delta experience and the traditional fish meal was really tasty. After lunch we got back to the boat and took another trip. We could find occupied nest of Eurasian Hobby, the latter was using an old abandoned Hooded Crow's nest. It was late afternoon by the time we arrived back to Mila 23 for our last night.



Pygmy Cormorant (top) European Roller (left) and Squacco Herons are common birds in the Delta (Sándor Borza)

Thursday, 25th of May

We started the last full day with a hearty breakfast and then a fast boat picked us up which could take us to Tulcea in one hour. We had to be quick as we had many things to do in our last birding day. We were lucky because we connected with a flock of Rose-coloured Starling and Stock Dove en route. In Tulcea we quickly changed our boat back to our trusty van and drove to a woodland habitat. This oak forest gave us the first Yellowhammer and Hawfinch of the tour. Our main birding destination was the Macin-hills. We had a quick packed lunch just as we arrived. The picnic area was a good area for the scarce Sombre Tit and although it took us a while we finally found one bird. The Sombre Tit is a rather localised speciality so it was great to connect with it. Later we had a very pleasant walk into the rocky hills where we managed to find a singing male Rufous-tailed Rock Thrush, a Lesser-spotted Eagle, European Honey Buzzard, a soaring Black Stork and many Ortolan Buntings. Our last bird of the day was a fantastic male Barred Warbler. This was an action-packed and fantastic day again!



Rose-coloured Starling (Sándor Borza)

Friday, 26th of May

We had to wake up early and drive to Bucharest because some of us had an early departure time. Before the breakfast there was an optional birding along the riverside of the Danube. We had a little time on the way to the airport as well. This stop was very successful as we managed to see a superb Saker. What a mega species to end the trip! As we arrived to Bucharest it was time to say goodbye for all the participants. We had such a great group and again this fantastic region gave us all the special birds and many unforgettable experience!

SYSTEMATIC BIRD LIST

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species which were recorded only by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: It was seen on most days but usually only a few individuals.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*: One bird was seen in Dobrudja.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* (H): One bird was heard in a wheat field in Dobrudja.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*: Not really common, but around wetlands, small flocks or family groups were regular.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*: Common, sometimes numerous at all wetland sites.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (NL): One flying bird was seen by our tour participants in Dobrudja.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*: Very common in Dobrudja but it was seen elsewhere too. A family with few days old chicks was also seen.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (LO): One pair was disappeared in the thick vegetation after the short sighting.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: A few were seen in Dobrudja and it was common in the Danube Delta.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: Common around most of the wetland sites.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: There was one flock in the wetland of Vadu.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: Mostly in the lagoons of Dobrudja.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: Common but not numerous around all wetland sites.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: One bird was seen on the artificial pond of Navodari.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*: One female was seen on the artificial pond of Navodari.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: A few were seen around most of the wetland sites, but it was evidently more common in the Delta.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*: Several birds were seen in the lagoons Dobrudja. We had a good view of the beautiful males as well.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*: We could see one flying individual above the Danube en route to the hotel.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Two pairs were seen in a good wetland near Tulcea.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: Common, especially in the Delta.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*: Only seen in the Delta where it was uncommon.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*: We had several flocks in different places, but the most of them were in the Delta.

Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus*: It was recorded in four consecutive days. Usually not in big numbers, but the biggest flocks contained more then 12 birds.

White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus*: Common in Dobrudja and in the Delta as well. Many big flocks were seen daily. The biggest flocks were above 400 birds. Some soaring birds even above the Macin-hills.



Comfort time of White Pelican (Sándor Borza)

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*: It was very common in the Delta region.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: Common throughout the trip.

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*: Most of them were heard, but there was one sight of it in Dobrudja.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*: Four different bird were seen exceptionally well in the Delta.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: It was fairly common in Dobrudja and very common in the Delta.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*: A few were seen in Dobrudja but very common in the Delta.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: Quite common and it was seen on most of the days.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Fairly common, though not numerous in reedbeds both in Dobrudja and in the Delta.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*: Quite common during the whole trip.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: They were recorded on most of the days. More in the Delta.

European White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*: Common. Almost all the nests are in villages but we found a beautifully located nest among the lagoons of Dobrudja as well.

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: We had two soaring individuals in the Macin region.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: We had the biggest flock (about 20 birds) in Vadu, but there were another observations in the tour as well.

Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus*: A few flocks were seen in Dobrudja but in the Delta it was quite common. Close to our hotel on a shallow weedy wetland they were feeding all mornings and evenings, providing us very good views.



Glossy Ibis in flight (Sándor Borza)

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*: Recorded in three days. One adult was especially seen well as we could approach it by our boat without disturbing it.

Lesser-spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*: Two birds were seen in the Macin-hills. We had two very close birds beside the road near Harsova.

Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*: There were three observations in the surrounding of Cheia and Macin-hills.

Booted Eagle *Aquila pennata*: There was three pale morph birds in the Cheia gorge region and more bird in the Macin-hills.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: The most frequently seen birds of prey during the trip.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*: They were seen both in Dobrudja and in the Macin-hills.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: A few were seen on the tour.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*: Only seen in the Macin-hills, where there were three different individuals.

Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*: We had two observations of this specialty. One adult male was in Dobrudja and one immature male was seen in Macin-hills. All were exceptionally good views.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: A widespread and common raptor. More were seen outside the Delta.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*: Some breeding pairs and very close views in Dobrudja, but several were seen elsewhere and some in the Delta as well.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*: Only one was seen in Sinoe in our last day in Dobrudja but several were recorded in the Delta.

Saker *Falco cherrug*: We checked a good spot en route the airport on the backway and fortunately we were lucky. We could see one solitary bird on the pylon.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: It was only seen in the Delta.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*: Quite common, especially in the Delta.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*: Many breeding pairs were seen around the lagoons and also a big breeding colony around Letea.

Blck-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: A few were seen around shallow wetlands.

Eurasian Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*: Two birds were seen at different locations in Dobrudja.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*: Several were seen around most of the suitable wetland sites, but big breeding colonies were also present at two locations. They were already sitting on their nests.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: Some good views in Letea, but only a handful of birds were seen all together.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: Some smaller migrating flocks were recorded near Sinoe and a few elsewhere.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*: Breeding pairs were recorded at least three different locations.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: Two birds were recorded near Sinoe, in nice breeding plumage.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*: Fairly common around suitable wetland habitats.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: Smaller flocks were seen in Dobrudja. Elsewhere only single numbers were recorded.

Curlew Sanpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: Most of them were in stunning breeding plumage. Common around most of the lagoons.



Eurasian Stone Curlew (Sándor Borza)

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: Dozens were seen at Histira and common at other lagoon sites as well.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: Four birds were seen in the artificial shallow lagoon near Vadu.

Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus*: One of the star species of the trip. The timing of the tour was excellent to find this odd wader. This year gave an unforgettable experience because we could enjoy a 300+ flock of this magnificent bird near Sinoe.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Not numerous but a few birds were present around all suitable wetland sites.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: Only a few birds were seen around the lagoons in Dobrudja.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: Several birds were seen in the lagoons of Dobrudja.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: One bird was observed in the alkaline marsh in Letea.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: Three birds were recorded in Delta.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: Quite common, though not really numerous around the lagoons.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*: Only recorded around the Constanca region.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*: Very common during the whole trip.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: Common bird around wetlands.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*: One immature bird was seen in the surrounding of Sinoe.

Pallas's Gull *Larus ichthyæetus*: One of the main target species of the trip. There were four birds near Sinoe. We could notice a different plumage of this species. Great bird!

Little Gull *Larus minutus*: The biggest flocks were 400 plus birds, mostly immatures, but a few nice adults as well. Only seen in Dobrudja.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: Very common both in the Delta and in Dobrudja as well.



Broad-billed Sandpiper flock (Sándor Borza)

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*: Four birds were recorded above the Black Sea near the coast of Vadu.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*: Small flocks, maximum five birds together were seen on the Wolves' Island.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*: There were several birds in different habitats, for example alkaline wetlands, sandy coast.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*: A few were seen around the Dobrudja lagoons and many more in the Delta with some breeding colonies there as well.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: A few dozens were seen on three different dates in Dobrudja and Delta as well.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*: Common and recorded every day.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*: Common in the tour.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*: Only one individual was recorded in the Delta.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*: Very common.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*: Commonly seen in the countryside.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: Very common, especially in the Delta.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*: We found a fledged chick in Histria. Unfortunately we couldn't see the parent birds.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*: Four birds were observed in Sinoe and Istria village.

Common Swift *Apus apus*: We recorded them a couple of times during the trip.

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*: Common, especially in Dobrudja in villages and short grassed pastures and along dirt roads.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: Many were seen breeding in holes of the banks of the Danube channels.

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*: Very common in Dobrudja and Macin-hills, basically anywhere where breeding habitat (sandbank) is available.



European Bee-eater in flight (Sándor Borza)

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*: Quite commonly seen in Dobrudja but many more were seen in the willow forests in the Delta.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*: An exceptionally great view was obtained in the Delta region.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*: Three were heard in the Babadag forest, but we had a good view in Horia.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*: One pair was observed in Sinoe village, and another one pair near Nufaru.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*: Common in the Delta. We also found in the Babadag forest.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*: We had a few view of it in the Delta.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: Commonly seen in the Delta, but we had only a handful of really good views as most of the birds were rather shy.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*: Very common in agricultural areas.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*: Common in Dobrudja, especially by smaller roads.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*: There were a few on the rocky slopes of the Macin-hills.

Short-toed Lark *Calandrella brachydactyla*: We recorded a few displaying birds in Dobrudja.

Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra*: A common bird of the Dobrudjean farmlands.



Calandra Lark in farmland (Sándor Borza)

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Common.

Red-rumped Swallow *Cercropis daurica*: One bird was seen in Dobrudja, near Cheia.

House Martin *Delichon urbicum*: Very common especially in villages.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*: They were seen a couple times mainly around wetlands.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: Quite common in all kind of wetlands.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*: A common bird around farmlands and wetlands as well.

Most commonly Black-headed Wagtails (*feldeggii*) were seen but the hybrid superciliaris form was recorded regularly as well. Blue-headed (nominate) Wagtails were also regularly seen just like the also hybrid *dombrowski* types.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: A common, though not numerous species of short grassed pastures and farmlands.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*: One bird was seen in the Macin-hills.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*: A few birds were in the Babadag-forest, one was seen.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos* (H): A few were heard in bushy areas in the Macin-hills and Sinoe village.

Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*: Several were heard in the Delta. We could see very well one migratory bird in Sinoe village.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: A male was seen in the Cheia-gorge and Letea.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: A common breeding bird in the Delta.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*: A very common bird around suitable habitats.

Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*: First a pair was seen in Sitorman. Later a few more were seen around the very short grassed pastures.

Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka*: A few pairs were seen well in Sitorman and another six birds in the Cheia gorge and Macin as well.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*: One pair was seen in the Macin-hills.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*: A few birds were seen in the Delta and a few heard singing elsewhere in forested areas.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*: A few were heard and one was seen in the Babadag forest.

Rufous-tailed Rock-Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*: Two nice males were singing on the rocks and had a good view in the Macin-hills.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*: One fantastic male was observed in the Macin region.



Male Barred Warbler on the top of the tree (Sándor Borza)

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*: In the delta it is a fairly common breeding bird and many of them were heard. A few were also seen well.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*: In bushy and forested areas it was a quite common species.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*: Only a few were seen along ditches or bushes in Dobrudja.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: We could hear in the suitable habitat in the Dobrudja and Delta. A few were seen as well.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*: Only one bird was seen well and a few more heard in the Delta.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobenus*: Several singing birds in the Delta near Letea.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: Common in the reeds.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*: One bird was seen in Sinoe.

Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola*: Because of the strong wind just one bird was observed in Dobrudja. This is a special warbler for this tour!

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*: Very common in all types of reeds.

Icterine Warbler *Hyppolais icterina*: The first bird was seen in the car park in Histria. Many breeding one were seen in the forests.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler *Iduna pallida*: One bird was seen in Sinoe village and few more heard in the Delta.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: A common bird in the more forested areas and in the Delta.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus* (H): Two birds were heard in the Delta.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: A few singing birds were very nicely seen in the Babadag-forest.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*: Many migrating birds were seen in the bushes in Dobrudja near the coast. A few were seen elsewhere during the trip.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*: We had three observation of it. The first one was in the car park of Histria.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula collaris*: We saw few birds in the forest of Letea.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*: Seven birds were seen in the Babadag-forest.

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*: One bird was seen in the Babadag-forest.

Great Tit *Parus major*: Very common in the Delta, a few were seen elsewhere.

Sombre Tit *Parus lugubris*: One bird was seen in bushy vegetation of Macin-hills.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*: Very common in the Delta.

Eurasian Penduline-tit *Remiz pendulinus*: Quite commonly heard and also seen a couple of times in the Delta.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europea*: It was seen only in the Babadag-forest and Horia.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: A very common bird outside the Delta.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*: Not rare in Dobrudja. We had some very nice views.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: Only seen in the Macin region and the Babadag-forest.

Common Magpie *Pica pica*: Very common throughout.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*: Common, especially in Dobrudja.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*: Common, especially in Dobrudja.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*: Common, especially in the Delta.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*: Two birds were seen in the Macin-hills.

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: Extremely common in the whole area.

Rose-coloured Starling *Pastor roseus*: One of the star species of the trip. We could meet with three flocks. Two of them were in the Delta, one was in the Dobrudja region. The number of them was 42 birds together. We could notice one flock very well on the top of dead branches in the Delta.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: Many birds were seen briefly or in flight and many more were heard singing.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Very common.

Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*: It was common around villages in Dobrudja.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Generally common, especially in the Delta.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: Common in forested areas.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*: Recorded one time in Horia town.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: Recorded only a few times during the trip.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*: Several birds were seen in the Cheia and Sitorman.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*: We could observe one bird in the Babadag forest and another one was in the surrounding of Horia.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*: There were several individuals around Horia and Macin.

Ortolan Bunting *Emberiza hortulana*: Recorded on two days. A few good scope views and also some distant birds. They were quite actively singing.

Black-headed Bunting *Emberiza melanocephala*: We had several birds in this tour. The first ones were seen in the arable fields around Sinoe.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*: More were seen in the reedbeds of Dobrudja, but a few were seen daily in the Delta as well.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*: Very common in Dobrudja.

MAMMALS:

European Wildcat *Felix silvestris*: One individual was seen in the Delta.

Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*: Two were seen in Dobrudja.

Suslik *Spermophilus citellus*: Common ground living mammal in grassy areas.

Brown Hare *Lepus europeus*: A few were seen in Dobrudja.

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*: Several were seen in the tour.



European Wildcat living in the Delta region (Sándor Borza)