

# Romania

Danube Delta & Black Sea

Sat 6th – Sun 14th Sept 2014

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*At Sacalin Lagoon we were confronted by a floating mass of Water Chestnut that was littered with stalking Squacco Herons*  
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**report compiled by tour leader:  
Robin Chittenden**

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## Trip Diary

### Tour Leaders: Robin Chittenden and Zoli Baczó

*with Malcolm Dixon, Joanna Garton, Svend & Inger Jacobson, Roy & Valerie Little, David & Pam Manger, John & Nadine Shearman and Len & Gill Waterworth*

### Danube Delta & Black Sea

Limosa's autumn tour to Romania focuses on the magic of migration through this region of the Black Sea. Here we were to combine a wonderful selection of eastern European birds with migrants from the north, whilst enjoying a relaxing break along the Black Sea coast and Danube Delta. It was possible to watch roadside birds including such delights as Roller and Bee-eater, together with some of the scarcer and highly sought after European breeders including Levant Sparrowhawk, Great Black-headed Gull and Lesser Spotted Eagle. Migrant shorebirds included small groups of Broad-billed and Marsh Sandpipers. Our time on the ponton was spent visiting lakes where Whiskered and Black Terns, Pygmy Cormorants, Great White and Dalmatian Pelicans, Great Egrets, Squacco, Purple and Night Herons dominated the scene. We also enjoyed Thrush Nightingale, Isabelline and Pied Wheatears, Paddyfield and Savi's Warblers and plentiful Hawfinches.

The drive from Bucharest (Bucureşti) to the coast boasted an exotic list of birds: Red-footed Falcons, Rollers, a gang of grounded Black Storks and several White Storks, but as these were seen from our bus while driving along the motorway views were not exactly satisfactory. Luckily we caught up with all the species during in the tour. During the drive back we timed a stop at a service station just as seven Lesser Spotted Eagles and a Long-legged Buzzard drifted over.

### Sinoe

Short early morning walks at Sinoe produced a very close and completely out in the open Thrush Nightingale, it walked along a low garden wall and back again before plopping into one of the many lush gardens. Also there were a clutch of Red-breasted Flycatchers, a couple of Golden Orioles, several Bee-eaters, Red-backed Shrikes, Tree Sparrows and a Little Owl.

### Wolves Peninsular

This site is famous for breeding Paddyfield Warblers and we were in luck seeing about five. We were able to compare their plumage details with Reed and Sedge Warblers. One of the lakes was awash with wildfowl, including at least 100 Garganey, three Ferruginous Ducks, Red-crested Pochard, our first Squacco Heron, several Purple Herons, Glossy Ibis, very close Whiskered Terns and a Dalmatian Pelican. An immature male Pallid Harrier flew past followed by another juvenile 'ring-tail' harrier, which from photos was later confirmed as another Pallid. A couple of Montagu's Harriers and a few Gull-billed Terns were hunting the surrounding fields. A straw-coloured Mediterranean Slant-faced Grasshopper was marvelled at.

At a dried-up lake there was a roosting flock of gulls. These weren't just any old gulls but a spectacular gathering of 87 Great Black-headed Gulls mixed in with Caspian Gulls plus Caspian and Common Terns. We got closer to enjoy fabulous views of the largest flock our local guide Zoli had ever seen in Romania. As we boarded the bus another Pallid Harrier sailed by, this time it was a ghostly adult male – lovely! In a small pool in the reeds we discovered a first-winter Citrine Wagtail and enjoyed watching a low-perched Roller. As we left, a couple of flocks of White Pelicans flapped very low past the bus as they battled into strong headwinds. Wow what a morning!

### **Sitorman Quarry**

A Little Owl in a burrow distracted some of us from the main prize, a male and female Pied Wheatear, which were on the other side of the track, plus an Isabelline Wheatear. Well they were surprisingly easy to locate. A short stroll up the hill produced two more Pied Wheatears.

### **Histria area**

Near the village of Nuntași we found our first Lesser Grey Shrike of the tour followed by bizarrely another male Pied Wheatear, presumably a migrant. A flock of 100 or so Ruff in a field were following the plough. An all too quick, low flying Saker sped over the road and carried on going, but three hunting Red-footed Falcons hovering right by the road and a Black Stork gave much better views. Two Ospreys resting in a field looked a bit out of place. On a second visit to the archaeological site a pale-morph juvenile Honey Buzzard circled over. In the trees were a couple of Lesser Whitethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher and Redstart. Nearby having located two showy Stone-curlews we found a Great Reed Warbler and all too brief Wood Warbler.

### **Năvodari**

We spent an enjoyable hour or so scanning the birds either side of the road. Some of the more interesting finds were four Red-necked Grebes, many Black-necked Grebes, Ferruginous Duck, Red-crested Pochard, a Little Bittern that flew out of the reeds for all to see, plus many Black and Whiskered Terns. At a saline pool we came across a really close bright juvenile Broad-billed Sandpiper. Also close were 200 roosting Little Gulls and a Black Tern. On the beach we compared the differences between Caspian Gulls and Yellow-legged Gulls.

### **Vadu**

Before reaching this hot spot for birds we spotted our first Booted Eagle and a Honey-buzzard, followed by a male Levant Sparrowhawk, the only one of the tour! A Dalmatian Pelican flew over with some White Pelicans. On the pools was a beautiful Marsh Sandpiper a Red-necked Phalarope, a few Temminck's Stints and several Little Stints - all bathed in lovely afternoon light. Further on were a couple of very close Lesser Grey Shrikes. Three more Black-necked Grebes gave fabulous views. We marvelled at the swarms of Collared Pratincoles (and three Red-footed Falcons) as they skimmed low over the reeds hunting for insects. Nearby we came across a flock of eight Hoopoes and an amazing concentration of 350 Ruddy Shelduck.

### **Babadag Forest**

Amazingly, a Black Woodpecker broke cover and flew over our heads twice. Later a couple of Middle Spotted Woodpeckers popped out. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was heard. There was a profusion of Silver-washed Fritillaries including a female of the *valezina* form.

### **Murighiol to St George (Sfântul Gheorghe)**

Once we had climbed aboard the pontoon, heading down the St George's Channel and en route to St George itself, we spotted a White-tailed Eagle, a Night Heron, a couple of Dalmatian Pelicans and numerous Whiskered Terns and Hobbies. We moored opposite the port of St George and in the morning misty light some saw an Icterine Warbler. On the return to Murighiol we spotted in total six White-tailed Eagles.

### **Sacalin Island and Sacalin Lagoon**

Travelling down the Gârla Turcească (the channel to the lake) we had lovely views of perched Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and a Grey-headed Woodpecker. A Little Bittern flew across the channel. As it opened out into the Lake proper we were confronted by a floating mass of Water Chestnut (aka Water Caltrop) that was liberally littered with stalking Squacco Herons. There were a few waders including a Marsh Sandpiper. Later a Dalmatian Pelican flew up and gave us a fabulous low fly past. Photographs showed it had a couple of Water Chestnut nuts stuck to its breast feathers ready to colonise a new area.

Hopping out into the shallow water we waded ashore to the sandy island and walked south for about a mile, birding as we went. It was fantastic with many waders, including at least 18 Broad-billed Sandpipers. Also among the throngs of birds were four Great Black-headed Gulls. A Dalmatian Pelican stood next to a White Pelican for direct comparison. As we tucked into our picnic on the boats we watched three or four White-tailed Eagles sail over.

### **Channel Tătaru**

After a few hundred yards we came across a family party of six Penduline Tits that quietly foraged away in a small bush. A Grass Snake swam across the channel. A short walk produced a Northern Wheatear, two Grey-headed Woodpeckers and a Large Copper. How could we have lost this beauty in the UK?

### **Lake Erenciuc**

Early morning by the entrance to the lake produced a surprise in the form of a Paddyfield Warbler. It must have been a migrant. A party of Long-tailed Tits, with snowy white heads, flitted through.

By the channel to the Lake we spent a quiet time watching many common warblers: Reed, Sedge, Willow, Great Reed, Blackcap and Chiffchaffs all came very close to the boat. There was the near constant soft rattle of the Red-breasted Flycatchers. At the lake two Penduline Tits showed well. There were many Squacco Herons on the floating Water Chestnut. Also there were several Whiskered Terns, two skulking Savi's Warblers, a Dalmatian Pelican that flew about, and a perched White-tailed Eagle.

Perhaps the most amazing sight were the large 'Chinese' Carp that kept leaping 'Salmon style' out of the water. Inevitable one landed on the rear of one of our boats and was quickly secured by the captain for his plate.

### **Gârla Perivolovca**

This quiet secluded woody channel held a female Collared Flycatcher and then a Black Woodpecker popped out. There were just two Night Herons - presumably most had already left the delta. Other birds included a Pygmy Cormorant, White-tailed Eagle, white-headed form Long-tailed Tits and Great Reed Warbler. On a second visit we had fabulous views of a pair of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, a dark morph juvenile Honey Buzzard circled incredibly low over, three Ferruginous Duck, Little Stint, Black Stork and some saw a skulking Thrush Nightingale.

### **Murighiol Salt-lake**

As we docked at Murighiol there was a swarm of White Pelicans circling in the distance. A Syrian Woodpecker perched right by the bus. At the salt-lake were four Ferruginous Ducks, none of which showed the white vent, ten Black-winged Stilts and a flock of 50 Purple Heron headed south. Nearby two adult White-tailed Eagles perched on some pylons.

### **Sarinasuf fishpond**

Two Cattle Egrets flew through and a Long-legged Buzzard perched low on a pylon. Nearby we saw three Cuckoos including a tame bird that was hunting for caterpillars in a garden.

### **Tulcea Marsh**

This marshy area by the town was wonderful. Looking down on the action we saw as many as 150 Spoonbills, many Great Egrets, a handful of Pygmy Cormorants and two Syrian Woodpeckers.

### **Macin Mountains National Park**

En route we spotted several Turtle Doves, a few Hawfinches and a very low Lesser Spotted Eagle. At the site there was a Red-rumped Swallow, Syrian Woodpecker, a juvenile Pallid Harrier and Long-legged Buzzard. There was a profusion of common butterflies as well as Eastern Green Lizard, Balkan Wall Lizard and a Wasp Spider.

**Babadag Forest near Horia**

The open woodland was leaping with Hawfinches, but virtually all were flying over. Three Sombre Tits popped out. There were many Cardinal fritillaries floating about and another Mediterranean Slant-faced Grasshopper - this time a green one.

**Lake Hazarlâc**

At last a Ferruginous Duck with a white vent. Also there were several Pygmy Cormorants, an inland Spotted Redshank and a couple of Ospreys, one of which caught a fish.

A huge thank you to our guide, Zoltan (Zoli) for all his incredible spotting and organisational abilities, and to our very reliable driver, Imre, who seemed to know instinctively when to stop and turn off the engine.

*Robin Chittenden*

## ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED (182 species)

**Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus***

A few seen here and there

**Greylag Goose *Anser anser***

Seen at four sites with a maximum count of 500+ Sacalin Lagoon

**Mute Swan *Cygnus olor***

Very common

**Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna***

Ten Histria and a few Vadu

**Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea***

350+ near Vadu

**Gadwall *Anas strepera***

A few here and there

**Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos***

Common

**Shoveler *Anas clypeata***

Several Năvodari and Sacalin Lagoon and one Murighiol Salt-lake

**Pintail *Anas acuta***

A few Wolves Peninsular, two Năvodari and 20+ Sacalin Lagoon

**Wigeon *Anas penelope***

Eight Wolves Peninsular

**Garganey *Anas querquedula***

Up to 100 Wolves Peninsular and several Sacalin Lagoon

**Teal *Anas crecca***

Common

**Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina***

A couple Wolves Peninsular and Năvodari

**Pochard *Aythya ferina***

Fairly common

**Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca***

Three Wolves Peninsular, one Năvodari, three Gârla Perivolovca, four Murighiol Salt-lake and one Lake Hazarlâc

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis***

Widespread and seen on many lakes

**Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena***

Four Năvodari

**Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus***

50+ Năvodari and six Sacalin Lagoon

**Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis***

At least 27 Năvodari, three Vadu Babadag and five Murighiol Salt-lake

**Black Stork *Ciconia nigra***

20+ en route by A2, one Histria, one to three Gârla Perivolovca, one Tulcea Marsh and 30+ west of Țândărei

**White Stork *Ciconia ciconia***

15 en route by A2, one Macin Mountains National Park and a couple west of Țândărei

**Glossy Ibis *Plegadis falcinellus***

One Wolves Peninsular

**Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia***

One to three at a few sites and 150+ Tulcea Marsh

**Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus***

One Năvodari and one Gârla Turcească

**Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

Eight Vadu, one St George's Channel and two Gârla Perivolovca

**Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides***

Common

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Common

**Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea***

Many seen including a flock of 50 south over Murighiol Salt-lake

**Great Egret *Ardea alba***

Fairly common

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

Common

**Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis***

Two Sarinasuf fishpond

**White Pelican *Pelecanus onocrotalus***

Many seen with the largest flock being 200 Sacalin Lagoon and a similar number over Murighiol

**Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus***

One Wolves Peninsular, one Vadu, two St George's Channel, eight Sacalin Island and Lake, one Lake Erenciuc and three near Gârla Perivolovca

**Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus***

70+ Năvodari, small numbers in the Delta including ten Tulcea, one Gârla Perivolovca and several Lake Hazarlâc

**Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo***

Common

**Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus***

Common

**Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus***

Several seen away from the delta itself

**Hobby *Falco subbuteo***

Common

**Saker *Falco cherrug***

One briefly Histria

**European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus***

Quite scarce four in total including a pale morph over Histria and a very low dark morph juvenile Gârla Perivolovca

**White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla***

Seen every day in the delta including nine sightings on one day

**Osprey *Pandion haliaetus***

Seen regularly including two resting on the ground by the Black Sea coast and two at Lake Hazarlâc

**Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus***

Common

**Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus***

Two males and a juvenile Wolves Peninsular and a juvenile Macin Mountains National Park

**Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus***

Five ring-tails seen

**Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes***

A male Vadu

**Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus***

A few seen here and there

**Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo***

A few here and there

**Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus***

Ones and twos here and there

**Lesser Spotted Eagle *Clanga pomarina***

One near Macin Mountains National Park and seven heading south near Slobozia

**Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus***

Seven seen at various sites

**Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus***

One Lake Erenciuc

**Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***

Only small numbers including ten Lake Erenciuc

**Coot *Fulica atra***

Generally common

**Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus***

Two Histria

**Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostraelgus***

Two Năvodari and eight Sacalin Island

**Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus***

Ten Murighiol Salt-lake

**Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta***

Five Vadu and 30+ Sacalin Island

**Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus***

Widespread in small numbers

**Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola***

One Năvodari and ten Sacalin Island

**Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula***

Several Sacalin Island and four Murighiol Salt-lake

**Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius***

A few here and there

**Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus***

One Vadu and one Sacalin Island

**Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago***

Fairly common

**Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa***

One Histria, four Vadu and 16 Sacalin Island

- Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata***  
12 seen along the coast
- Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus***  
Small numbers here and there including one inland Lake Hazarlâc
- Redshank *Tringa totanus***  
Small numbers here and there
- Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis***  
One Vadu and one Sacalin Lagoon
- Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***  
A few here and there
- Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus***  
Only four seen at three sites
- Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***  
Widespread and common
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***  
Five seen at three sites
- Turnstone *Arenaria interpres***  
One at Sacalin Island
- Sanderling *Calidris alba***  
Two Sacalin Island
- Little Stint *Calidris minuta***  
30+ Vadu, one near Gârla Perivolovca and eight Murighiol Salt-lake
- Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii***  
One Histria and three Vadu
- Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***  
One Histria
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina***  
A few Vadu and ten Sacalin Island
- Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus***  
One Năvodari, one Vadu and up to 18 Sacalin Island
- Ruff *Philomachus pugnax***  
Common and widely recorded
- Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus***  
One Vadu
- Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola***  
100+ Vadu
- Slender-billed Gull *Chroicocephalus genei***  
One Sacalin Island
- Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus***  
Very common
- Little Gull *Hydrocoloeus minutus***  
200+ Năvodari and several Sacalin Island
- Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyhaetus melanocephalus***  
Common
- Great Black-headed Gull *Ichthyhaetus ichthyhaetus***  
87 Wolves Peninsular and four Sacalin Island
- Common Gull *Larus canus***  
One Lake Erenciuc
- Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus***  
One Wolves Peninsular
- Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis***  
Common along coast south of the delta



- Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans***  
Very common
- Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilocta***  
Six Wolves and one Histria
- Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia***  
Fairly common
- Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida***  
Very common and widespread
- Black Tern *Chlidonias niger***  
20+ Năvodari and one Sacalin Lagoon
- White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***  
One Sacalin Lagoon
- Sandwich Tern *Thalasseus sandvicensis***  
Several Năvodari and 250+ Sacalin Island
- Common Tern *Sterna hirundo***  
Seen on three days with maximum count of 100+ Sacalin Island
- Feral (Rock) Pigeon *Columba livia***  
Recorded each day away from the Danube delta.
- Stock Dove *Columba oenas***  
Two Gârla Perivolovca
- Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus***  
Fairly common in the Delta
- Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur***  
Seven Vadu, two en route to the Delta and 20+ en route to Macin Mountains National Park
- Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto***  
Very common away from the Danube delta.
- Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus***  
Three near Sarinasuf fishpond
- Little Owl *Athene noctua***  
Six seen in various locations including one in a burrow Sitorman Quarry
- Tawny Owl *Strix aluco***  
One by St George's Channel
- Roller *Coracias garrulous***  
18 seen mostly en route to birding locations
- Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis***  
Widespread and fairly common
- Bee-eater *Merops apiaster***  
Several seen most days
- Hoopoe *Upupa epops***  
Ones and twos south of the Delta and a flock of eight Vadu
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor***  
One heard Babadag Forest, one Gârla Turcească and two Gârla Perivolovca
- Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius***  
Two briefly Babadag Forest
- Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus***  
One near Murighiol, two Tulcea Marsh and one Macin Mountains National Park
- Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major***  
Ones and twos here and there
- Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius***  
One Babadag Forest and one or two Gârla Perivolovca
- Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis***  
One Babadag Forest near Horia

- Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus***  
Fairly common in the Delta
- Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio***  
Common but only one adult Năvodari
- Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor***  
One Histria, three Vadu and one en route to the Delta
- Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus***  
Two or three Sinoe one Gârla Turcească and one en route Macin Mountains National Park Slobozia
- Jay *Garrulus glandarius***  
One Babadag Forest and four Macin Mountains National Park
- Magpie *Pica pica***  
Very common and ripe for parasitism by Great Spotted Cuckoo, perhaps!
- Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula***  
Common
- Rook *Corvus frugilegus***  
Very common
- Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix***  
Widespread and common
- Raven *Corvus corax***  
Two Babadag Forest near Horia
- Sombre Tit *Poecile lugubris***  
Three Babadag Forest near Horia
- Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris***  
One Babadag Forest and Babadag Forest near Horia
- Great Tit *Parus major***  
Common
- Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus***  
Common
- Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus***  
Family party Canal Tătaru and two Lake Erenciuc
- Sand Martin *Riparia riparia***  
Common south of the Delta
- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***  
Very very common
- House Martin *Delichon urbicum***  
Just a few seen
- Red-rumped Sallow *Cecropis daurica***  
One Macin Mountains National Park
- Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus***  
Up to 16 in total Lake Erenciuc and Gârla Perivolovca
- Calandra Lark *Melanocorypha calandra***  
One Wolves Peninsular
- Crested Lark *Galerida cristata***  
A few here and there
- Sky Lark *Alauda arvensis***  
Two Wolves Peninsular
- Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides***  
Two Lake Erenciuc
- Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus***  
One Wolves Peninsular, one Histria, one Lake Erenciuc and one Gârla Perivolovca

**Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***

One Wolves Peninsular, one Histria, one Năvodari and four Lake Erenciuc

**Paddyfield Warbler *Acrocephalus agricola***

Five Histria and one Lake Erenciuc

**Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***

A few here and there

**Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina***

One opposite St George

**Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus***

A few here and there

**Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita***

A few in the Delta

**Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla***

A few here and there

**Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca***

Five coastal sites south of the Delta

**Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis***

Only a couple seen

**Bearded Tit *Parnurus biarmicus***

Only a couple seen briefly

**Nuthatch *Sitta europaea***

Two Babadag Forest and at least six Babadag Forest near Horia

**Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris***

One Lake Erenciuc

**Starling *Sturnus vulgaris***

Very common

**Blackbird *Turdus merula***

Only a few seen in the Delta

**Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos***

Just one in the Delta

**Robin *Erithacus rubecula***

One Lake Erenciuc

**Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia***

One Sinoe and one Gârla Perivolovca

**Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros***

One Macin Mountains National Park

**Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***

One Histria

**Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra***

A few here and there south of the Delta

**Isabelline Wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina***

One Sitorman Quarry

**Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe***

Several away from the Delta

**Pied Wheatear *Oenanthe pleschanka***

Four Sitorman Quarry and one near Histria

**Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata***

Common and widespread

**Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis***

A female at Gârla Perivolovca

**Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva***

23 seen on five days

**House Sparrow *Passer domesticus***

Common around towns and villages, but largely absent from the delta

**Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis***

Two Histria

**Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

Several seen here and there

**Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava***

Recorded in good numbers throughout the week and seen or heard daily although most were in flight, calling as they went overhead. All calls were those we are familiar with in western Europe (so presumably given by Blue-headed (*flava*) or Grey-headed Wagtails (*thunbergi*). Of birds seen on the ground, the majority were first-winter birds, which were difficult to assign specific subspecies, but all of the adults we saw were nominate *flava* (Blue-headed Wagtail).

**Black-headed Wagtail *Motacilla (flava) feldegg***

One Wolves Peninsular

**Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola***

One Wolves Peninsular

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Two in the Delta

**White Wagtail *Motacilla alba***

Fairly common

**Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis***

One Murighiol Salt-lake and two Macin Mountains National Park

**Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs***

Many Babadag Forest

**Greenfinch *Chloris chloris***

One in the Delta

**Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis***

A few seen

**Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

Ten plus en route to Macin and 50+ Babadag Forest near Horia

**Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra***

A couple of smallish flocks

**Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus***

One Histria

**MAMMALS****Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*****European Souselik *Spermophilus citellus*****Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*****Golden Jackal *Canis aureus*****Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*****REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS****Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*****Caspian Whip Snake *Coluber caspius*****Eastern Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis*****Balkan Wall Lizard *Podarcis taurica*****Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda* / Pool Frog *Rana lessonae***

**DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES**

Common Bluetail aka Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*

Eastern Willow Spreadwing *Lestes parvidens*

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

**BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS**

Small/Southern Small White *Artogeia rapae / manni*

Eastern Bath White *Pontia edusa*

Danube Clouded/Clouded Yellow *Colias myrmidone / crocea*

Pale/Berger's/Eastern Clouded Yellow *Colias kyale / alfacariensi / erate*

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Comma *Polytonia c-album*

Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*

Cardinal *Argynnis pandora*

Great Banded Grayling *Brintesia circe*

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Large Skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus*

Hummingbird Hawk Moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*

**CRICKETS & GRASSHOPPERS**

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*

Mediterranean Slant-faced Grasshopper *Acrida ungarica*