

Bulgaria & Romania Winter Trip

31st Jan – 3rd February 2011

Species List:

1. **Mute Swan** *Cygnus Olor*: Common on lakes and the sea around Duranklak and Shabla
2. **Whooper Swan** *Cygnus Cygnus*: 500 plus in fields and lakes between Istria and Vadu.
3. **Bewick Swan** *Cygnus Columbianus*: 2 with a Whooper herd in a field near Istria
4. **White Fronted Goose** *Anser Albifons*: Several thousand in flocks around Durankulak, largest encountered estimated at 4,000 birds.
5. **Greylag Goose** *Anser Anser*: 3 with the largest flock of Whitefronts.
6. **Red Breasted Goose** *Branta Ruficollis*: A bird in serious decline with just 20,000 as the latest world estimate, down dramatically on previous years. We encountered several nervy flocks mostly mixed with Whitefronts and got pretty good views. A last day spectacle of 2,000 swirling in the air and landing in a field just north of Durnakulak was breathtaking.
7. **Shelduck** *Tadorna Tadorna*: Several parties of up to 12 birds.
8. **Mallard** *Anas Platyrhynchos*: Common on any ice free water.
9. **Northern Shoveler** *Anas Cypeata*: Just the odd pairs here and there.
10. **Wigeon** *Anas Penelope*: Again just the odd one or two.
11. **Teal** *Anas Crecca*: Eight at Vadu the only ones seen.
12. **Pochard** *Aythya Ferina*: The most numerous duck in the region with flocks of up to 250
13. **Red Crested Pochard** *Netta Fufina*: A female on the sea at Durankulak and two pairs at Vadu were the only ones seen.
14. **Tufted Duck** *Aythya Fuligula*: A few on L.Durankulak and 100+ over the sea at Vadu.
15. **Goldeneye** *Bucephala Clangula*: Scattered coastal sightings of up to 5 birds.
16. **Smew** *Mergellus Albellus*: 2 Drakes and 8 females on L. Durankulak
17. **Red Breasted Merganser** *Mergus Serrator*: A drake and 2 females off the beach at Durnakulak.
18. **Grey Partridge** *Turnix Sylvaticus*: One flushed at Istria
19. **Common Pheasant** *Phasianus Colchicus*: A roadside bird on the trip to the Delta
20. **Black-throated Diver** *Gavia Artica*: 2 over the sea at Shabla.
21. **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps Nigricollis*: Very common on the lakes and sea with up to 150 off Cape Kaliakra.
22. **Little Grebe** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: One and twos on most unfrozen waters.
23. **Great Crested Grebe** *Podiceps Cristata*: Common on the lakes and sea with up to 30 at L.Durankulak.
24. **Dalmatian Pelican** *Pelicanus Crispus*: Pleasingly one in breeding plumage on L.Durankulak.
25. **Great Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax Carbo Sinensis*: At least 300 off Cape Kaliakra
26. **Shag** *Phalacrocorax Aristotelis Desmarestis*: At least 50 with the Cormorants off Cape Kaliakra.
27. **Pygmy Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax Pygmeus*: 4 on a small lake at Eforie, south of Constanta.
28. **Great Bittern** *Botaurus Stellaris*: One seen flying by Pavel over the reeds north of Istria.
29. **Great Egret** *Casmerodius Albus*: Singles seen at Cape Kaliakra, over the sea at Shabla and from the car near Durankulak.
30. **Grey Heron** *Ardea Cinerea*: Several sightings but never more than two birds.
31. **White-tailed Eagle** *Haliaeetus Albacilla*: Great views of an Adult, 3rd Winter and Juvenile on the lake at Durnakulak.
32. **Western Marsh Harrier** *Circus Aeruginosus*: Significant numbers over all the reed beds.
33. **Hen Harrier** *Circus Cyaneus*: Widespread and frequent with over 50 birds including several really fine males.
34. **Long-legged Buzzard** *Buteo Rufinus*: A couple round Durankulak but far better views and numbers on the delta.
35. **Steppe Buzzard** *Buteo Buteo Vulpinus*: A wintering bird near Durankulak of this migratory species.
36. **Common Buzzard** *Buteo Buteo*: Very common with up to 50 birds a day.
37. **Rough-legged Buzzard** *Buteo Lagopus*: A couple of distant birds at Durnakulak and then several with brilliant views on the Delta.
38. **Sparrowhawk** *Accipter Nisus*: At least half a dozen birds with one taking a starling in flight at the Bolata gorge.
39. **Northern Goshawk** *Accipter Gentilis*: A distant bird identified by Pavel at Durnakulak and then another on the Danube Delta at Vadu.
40. **Common Kestrel** *Falco Tinnunculus*: Widespread, particularly on the Danube Delta.

41. **Merlin** *Falco Columbarius*: A male taking a sparrow in flight just outside the Birding Lodge.
42. **Water Rail** *Rallus Aquaticus*: Heard at the Bolata Gorge and on the Delta at Histria.
43. **Coot** *Fulica Atra*: The most widespread and numerous waterbird with a 1000+ on Lake Durnakulak and large concentrations on the sea at Shabla.
44. **Black-headed Gull** *Chroicocephalus Ribibundus*: single birds on Lake Durankulak and at the Delta.
45. **Common Gull** *Larus Canus*: Widespread in low numbers.
46. **Western Yellow-legged Gull** *Larus Michahellis*: Widespread in greater numbers, the commonest gull encountered.
47. **Caspian Gull** *Larus Cachinnans*: A couple on the Delta at Histria.
48. **Pallas's Gull** *Larus Ichthyæetus*: One of the highlights of the trip. Pallas's Gull has been recently discovered breeding on the Danube Delta. We found a first winter bird and then a full summer plumaged adult both in the air and on the water.
49. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** *Larus Fuscus Graellsii*: Just one at Lake Durankulak.
50. **Little Gull** *Hydrocoleus Minutus*: A first winter bird on L. Durnakulak.
51. **Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon** *Columba Livia*: Some white-rumped individuals at Cape Kaliakra.
52. **Wood Pigeon** *Columba Palumbus*: A couple at the Batova Forest.
53. **Collared Dove** *Streptopelia Decaocto*: Widespread in the villages.
54. **Eagle Owl** *Bubo Bubo*: A pair at the Bolata Gorge stake out with a calling male nicely seen on the valley top.
55. **Long-eared Owl** *Asio Otsu*: At least nine birds wonderfully seen at a village roost south of Durankulak.
56. **Black Woodpecker** *Dryocopus Martius*: Seen by John and Chris in the Batova Forest.
57. **Green Woodpecker** *Picus Viridis*: One heard and another flying bird seen in the Batova Forest.
58. **Grey-headed Woodpecker** *Picus Canus*: Up to three birds seen well in the Batova Forest.
59. **Great Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus Major*: One at Durnakulak and another in the Batova Forest.
60. **Syrian Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus Syriacus*: Common at all village stops.
61. **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** *Dendrocopus Medius*: One seen well in the Batova Forest.
62. **Skylark** *Alauda Arvensis*: Several small flocks
63. **Crested Lark** *Galerida Cristata*: Small numbers seen mostly on the beaches.
64. **Horned Lark** *Eremophila Alpestris Flava*: Two found in a ploughed field at Durnakulak, a rare winter bird for Bulgaria.
65. **Meadow Pipit** *Anthus Pratensis*: One on Cape Kaliakra .
66. **Dunnock** *Prunella Modularis*: Pavel was thrilled to find one near Durnakulak and then another at the Bolata Gorge!
67. **European Robin** *Erithacus Rubecula*: Frequent in wooded areas.
68. **Song Thrush** *Turdus Philomenos*: Widespread in all woods and gardens.
69. **Redwing** *Turdus Iliacus*: 5 Birds at Hagieni Forest, Limanu (Romania).
70. **Mistle Thrush** *Turdus Viscivorus*: One at the Batova Forest.
71. **Fieldfare** *Turdus Pilaris*: Several hundred birds, widespread across the area.
72. **Blackbird** *Turdus Merula*: Widespread in all woods and gardens.
73. **Moustached Warbler** *Acrocephalus Melanopogon*: There is a sedentary population at Durankulak, with Pavel seeing one bird. The wind and freezing temperatures made it impossible for us to call any out. The bird must find it tough to feed and perhaps goes into a form of hibernation.
74. **Goldcrest** *Regulus Regulus*: 3 Birds at Vaklino
75. **Winter Wren** *Troglodytes Troglodytes*: Occasional birds in all habitats.
76. **Great Tit** *Parus Major*: Widespread in all woods and gardens.
77. **Coal Tit** *Periparus Ater*: One at the Batova Forest
78. **Blue Tit** *Parus Minor*: Widespread in woods and gardens
79. **Marsh Tit** *Poecile Palustris*: One at the Batova Forest
80. **Long-tailed Tit** *Aegithalos Caudatus*: A small flock of the standard form at the Batova Forest
81. **Bearded Reedling** *Panurus Biamicus*: Seven birds at Durnakulak and then several fine views on the Danube Delta at Histria
82. **Eurasian Nuthatch** *Sitta Europaea*: One heard in the Botava Forest
83. **Great Grey Shrike** *Lanius Excubitor*: One on the wires at Durnakulak of the nominate form, the Siberian sub-species Homeyeri also occurs.
84. **Magpie** *Pica Pica*: Very widespread
85. **Eurasian Jay** *Garrulus Glandarius*: A couple at Durankulak and in the Batova Forest
86. **Jackdaw** *Corvus Monedula*: Just a few birds seen at the roadside in Romania
87. **Rook** *Corvus Frugilegus*: Large numbers in the fields
88. **Hooded Crow** *Corvus Cornix*: Frequent in small parties
89. **Raven** *Corvus Corax*: A fly over calling bird at the Batova Forest
90. **Starling** *Sturnus Vulgaris*: Several large flocks leaving and going to roost in the reed beds.

- 91. House Sparrow** *Passer Domesticus*: Good to see large flocks in most of the villages
- 92. Tree Sparrow** *Passer Montanus*: Some very large flocks of very bright birds in the villages.
- 93. Chaffinch** *Fringilla Colebs*: Widespread, the commonest finch.
- 94. Brambling** *Fringilla Montifringilla*: One seen by Pavel in Vaklino with Chaffinches.
- 95. Linnet** *Carduelis Cannabina*: Flock of a dozen at Shabla
- 96. Goldfinch** *Carduelis Carduelis*: A few birds in the villages.
- 97. Greenfinch** *Chloris Chloris*: A few birds in the villages.
- 98. Siskin** *Carduelis Spinus*: A flock of 20 in conifers at the Bolata Gorge
- 99. Hawfinch** *Coccothraustes Coccothraustes*: Singles of this handsome bird at Durnakulak, Vaklino and the Botava Forest.
- 100. Reed Bunting** *Emberiza Schoeniclus*: Common around the lakes and reed beds.
- 101. Yellowhammer** *Emberiza Citrinella*: A flock of 30 with other finches and sparrows at Histria.
- 102. Corn Bunting**: *Emberiza Calandra*: A few scattered birds.

For more information:

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