



THE BIRDS OF POMORIE LAKE

DIMITAR POPOV, LYUBOMIR PROFIROV, DONCHO KIROV, GALINA MESHKOVA

STATUS AND CHECKLIST

Revised and updated second edition



GREEN BALKANS NGO

1A Skopie Str.

4004 Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Tel: +359 (0)32 62 69 77

E-mail: office@greenbalkans.org

Website: www.greenbalkans.org

Popov, D., Profirov, L., Kirov, D., Meshkova, G. 2023. The birds of Pomorie Lake. Status and Checklist. Revised and updated second edition. Green Balkans NGO, Plovdiv, 48 pages.

Cover photos:

Aerial view of Pomorie Lake (both covers), ©Ivaylo Klisurov

Sandwich terns (front cover), ©Dimitar Popov

Flamingos (back cover), ©Dimitar Popov

Salt Museum salinas (inner cover), ©Lyubomir Profirov

Design and layout: Geosoft Ltd.

Published by:

Green Balkans NGO

Printed on recycled paper

ISBN 978-954-9433-66-1 (softcover)

ISBN 978-954-9433-67-8 (e-book PDF)

THE BIRDS OF POMORIE LAKE

DIMITAR POPOV, LYUBOMIR PROFIROV, DONCHO KIROV, GALINA MESHKOVA

STATUS AND CHECKLIST

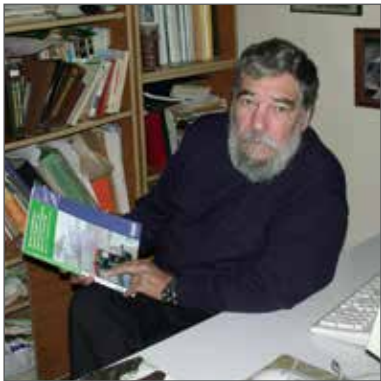
Revised and updated second edition



In Memoriam

The authors dedicate the current publication to our late colleagues

Tanyo Michev (1939-2018) and Doncho Kirov (1976-2022).



Tanyo has been one of the most renowned Bulgarian ornithologists and his contribution to Bulgarian Wetlands including Pomorie Lake has been enormous.



Doncho has been integral member of the Green Balkans NGO's "Pomorie Lake Conservation Program" through the years.

Contents

PREFACE	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	5
POMORIE LAKE/LAGOON	6
GREEN BALKANS NGO	7
MAPS OF POMORIE LAKE	8
CODE OF CONDUCT	12
INFORMATION SOURCES AND METHODOLOGICAL COMMENTS	12
Wildfowl (or Waterfowl) – ANATIDAE	14
Pheasants & Partridges – PHASIANIDAE	16
Nightjars – CAPRIMULGIDAE	16
Swifts – APODIDAE	17
Bustards – OTIDIDAE	17
Cuckoos – CUCULIDAE	17
Pigeons & Doves – COLUMBIDAE	17
Rails, Crakes & Coots – RALLIDAE	18
Cranes – GRUIDAE	19
Grebes – PODICIPEDIDAE	19
Flamingos – PHOENICOPTERIDAE	19
Stone-curlews – BURHINIDAE	19
Oystercatchers – HAEMATOPODIDAE	20
Stilts & Avocets – RECURVIROSTRIDAE	20
Plovers – CHARADRIIDAE	21
Sandpipers, Snipes – SCOLOPACIDAE	22
Coursers & Pratincoles – GLAREOLIDAE	25
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers – LARIDAE	26
Scuas – STERCORARIIDAE	28
Loons – GAVIIDAE	28
Petrels & Shearwaters – PROCELLARIIDAE	29
Storks – CICONIIDAE	29
Cormorants, Shags – PHALACROCORACIDAE	29
Ibises & Spoonbills – THRESKIORNITHIDAE	30
Herons & Bitterns – ARDEIDAE	30
Pelicans – PELECANIDAE	31
Ospreys – PANDIONIDAE	31

Kites, Hawks & Eagles – ACCIPITRIDAE	31
Barn Owls – TYTONIDAE	33
Owls – STRIGIDAE	33
Hoopoes – UPUPIDAE	33
Rollers – CORACIIDAE	33
Kingfishers – ALCEDINIDAE	33
Bee-eaters – MEROPIDAE	34
Woodpeckers – PICIDAE	34
Falcons – FALCONIDAE	34
Shrikes – LANIIDAE	35
Orioles – ORIOLIDAE	35
Crows, Jays – CORVIDAE	35
Tits – PARIDAE	36
Penduline Tits – REMIZIDAE	36
Bearded Reedlings – PANURIDAE	36
Larks – ALAUDIDAE	36
Swallows & Martins – HIRUNDINIDAE	37
Cettia Bush Warblers – CETTIIDAE	37
Leaf Warblers – PHYLLOSCOPIDAE	37
Reed Warblers – ACROCEPHALIDAE	37
Grassbirds – LOCUSTELLIDAE	38
Cisticolas – CISTICOLIDAE	38
Sylviid Babblers – SYLVIIDAE	38
Goldcrests, Kinglets – REGULIDAE	39
Wrens – TROGLODYTIDAE	39
Starlings – STURNIDAE	39
Thrushes – TURDIDAE	39
Chats, Old World Flycatchers – MUSCICAPIDAE	40
Old World Sparrows – PASSERIDAE	41
Accentors – PRUNELLIDAE	41
Wagtails, Pipits – MOTACILLIDAE	42
Finches – FRINGILLIDAE	43
Longspurs, Snow Buntings – CALCARIIDAE	43
Buntings – EMBERIZIDAE	44
REFERENCES	45

PREFACE

The main goal of this publication is to present the most important information on the birds of Pomorie Lake collected in a single booklet. It will help the observer to get a better understanding of the present status and the current trends in the numbers of Pomorie Lake's bird populations. In recent years interest in birdwatching in Bulgaria has been growing while at the same time Pomorie Lake has always been an important site for visits by international groups and individual birders. With advancement of technologies, use of public databases has also gradually increased. In this second edition we used data mainly from two of these: observation.org and eBird.org. All presented numbers and data are as of 31st May 2023.

There are probably certain mistakes and missing information in the Checklist. Therefore, we will be grateful to all ornithologists, birdwatchers and nature lovers, who would like to help us improve the future edition of this Checklist. In case of new species reported for Pomorie Lake or observations of bird numbers higher than those given in the Checklist, please contact dpopov@greenbalkans.org or office@greenbalkans.org.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

During the preparation of this checklist, we received help and encouragement from many colleagues. The authors express their special thanks to Gradimir Gradev, Milko Dimitrov, Konstantin Nyagolov, Tanyo Michev, Torsten Rislavy, Georgi Stoyanov, Hristo Nikolov, Irina Kirova, Konstantin Dichev, Lyubomir Yankov, Pavlin Zhelev, Elena Stoeva, Ilian Stoev, Mariela Zagorska, Aleksandar Mechev, Silvia Cherkezova, Georgi Dilovski, Ognyan Todorov, Dilyan Georgiev, Nikolay Kolev, Georgi Dulev, Stoyan Yordanov and Slaveya Stoycheva for providing data and information, which made possible the publication of this Checklist.

We would like to thank everybody, who has provided unpublished useful data about the birds of Pomorie Lake as well as all contributors to two of the largest online platforms: observation.org and eBird.org. Lyubomir Profirov is grateful to Georgi Kamov for the support in summarizing data for Pomorie Lake in eBird.org. Here we mention only the top contributors of these online platforms but extend our gratitude to them all: Lars Mannzen, Julian Muraveev, Simeon Gigov, Kalin Velev, Daniel Mitev, Iordan Hristov, Ivaylo Dimchev, Petar Stankov, Maria Kovtun, Glenn Morris, Brian Small, Pencho Penchev, Nikolay Vekov, Dimitar Dimitrov, Peter Kennerley, Ivan Tsvetkov, Jon Lowes, Boris Belchev, Shaun Robson, Emmanuel Naudot, Bjørn Kjellemyr, Peter Alfrey, Tihomir Stefanov, Jean-Sébastien Rousseau-Piot, Yordan Kutsarov, Kris De Keersmaecker, Bart De Keersmaecker, Jaap Oosterom, Coen van Nieuwamerongen, Richard van Vugt, Jacques Vanheueverswyn, Michel Emmers, Valérie Goethals, Pieter Cox, Ciprian Fantana.

We would also like to express our deepest gratitude to the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (The Conservation Volunteers), British-Bulgarian Society and all Bulgarian and foreign volunteers for their valuable and continuous contribution for improving nesting conditions for birds at Pomorie Lake.



POMORIE LAKE/LAGOON

Pomorie Lake is a relatively small (760 ha) natural coastal hypersaline lagoon on Bulgarian Black Sea coast. The lagoon has formed as a result of tectonic movements more than thousand years ago that resulted in formation of double tombolo connecting island of Pomorie to the mainland. Sand spit (5 km long and 50 m wide) with vegetated dunes separates the lagoon from the Black Sea. High contents of iron oxide is the source of the specific black sand there. Favourable natural conditions – flat relief, high solar radiation, low precipitation and wind exposure – were utilized by humans for centuries for production of sea salt by natural evaporation and Pomorie salinas are the oldest in Bulgaria, dated as early as 9th century. High salinity is important factor for formation of medicinal mud that is widely used by two specialized hospitals and several SPA hotels. Natural values and importance of the site are defined by combination of factors: situation along the second most important bird flyway in Europe (*Via Pontica*); existence of salt pans that circulate water and establish salinity and depth gradient with associated diverse conditions.

Currently, 297 bird species have been recorded at Pomorie Lagoon and it is hosting the largest breeding colony of Sandwich terns *Thalasseus sandvicensis* on the Balkan Peninsula with 1,000-2,400 pairs and significant shares of national populations of Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*, Common tern *Sterna hirundo*, Little tern *Sternula albifrons*, Kentish plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* and Black-winged stilt *Himantopus himantopus*. Saline conditions define importance for conservation of Caucasian dwarf goby *Knipowitschia caucasica* population in Bulgaria. Population of critically endangered in Europe damselfly Dark Spreadwing *Lestes macrostigma* recorded at Pomorie Lake is the highest in Bulgaria making it a key site for the conservation of that species both at national and European level. It is the biggest locality for Bulgarian Red Data Book-listed plant Sword-leaf dogbane *Trachomitum venetum* and is one of the two biggest locations of European glasswort *Salicornia europaea* in the country. The site hosts 12 habitat types listed in annex I of EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC including priority like 1150* Coastal lagoons and 1530* Pannonic salt steppes and salt marshes. Conservation and socio-economic importance of the lagoon is recognized by its designation as Ramsar site (2002), Important Bird Area (1989), national protected area (IUCN Category IV) in 2001. After Bulgaria's accession to the European Union, the lagoon was designated as two Natura 2000 sites: Special Protection Area "Pomoriysko ezero" BG0000152 (2009) under EU Birds Directive 2009/147 and Special Area of Conservation "Pomorie" BG0000620 (2020) under EU Habitats Directive 92/43.

GREEN BALKANS NGO

Green Balkans is one of the oldest, biggest and most competent nature conservation organizations in Bulgaria. It is a non-governmental non-profit organization, established in 1988 to protect the nature of Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula. The main areas of activity of the society are:

- Biodiversity conservation;
- Habitat restoration;
- Sustainable natural resource management;
- Improvement of nature-conservation legislation;
- Environmental education.

Among the main achievements of the organization are establishment of the only Wildlife Rescue Centre in Bulgaria (at Stara Zagora city); designation of more than 25 protected areas; coordination of identification of potential European ecological network NATURA 2000 sites of community importance; successful reintroduction of species that were extinct in Bulgaria like Cinereous vulture, Lesser kestrel and Saker falcon.

Green Balkans NGO has been running a long-term conservation program for Pomorie Lake spanning more than 25 years. Thanks to diverse national and international funders and hundreds of volunteers more than 2 million euros have been invested in conservation of the site. Activities evolved from restoration of habitat for breeding birds in the form of islets and wooden platforms and rafts to more holistic approach including development of management plan (it was the first integrated management plan in Bulgaria that encompassed different types of protected areas but unfortunately was not approved by Ministry of Environment and Water); restoration and maintenance of wetland's hydrological regime; marking of site with info-boards; cleaning of illegally deposited waste; creation of Pomorie Lake visitor centre; colour-ringing scheme for Sandwich terns from the colony; environmental education and awareness activities.



You can find out more about Green Balkans NGO on the website:

<https://greenbalkans.org/>

and about the work at Pomorie Lake on the website:

<https://greenbalkans.org/pomorielake/>



MAPS OF POMORIE LAKE

The two maps below illustrate changes that have taken place in and around the site over the past 20 years. The first map is from 2000 and shows concentrations of most typical bird species. At that time Small Pomorie Lake (where concentrations of waders and Sandwich terns are indicated) still existed to the southeast of the Pomorie Lake as well as abandoned urban saltpans (where concentrations of Avocets are indicated) to the south, but were left outside of national protected area and Ramsar site's boundaries. Nowadays both these wetlands do not exist as these were restituted to private owners and converted to residential housing used primarily for summer holiday homes. As already mentioned despite management plan was developed it was not approved by Ministry of Environment and Water despite two revisions were made with last one being in 2014.

Main conflict that was identified by the plan was with Pomorie Municipality's draft Master Plan that proposed further urban developments through conversion of agricultural lands (mainly extensive vineyards) into new holiday resorts within proposed Site of Community Interest Pomorie BG0000620. Appropriate assessment report of the Master Plan was not approved by Ministry of Environment and Water and thus that was prevented. Management Plan has foreseen establishment of Management Body for the protected areas' complex but since it was not approved that gap remained. Despite the fact that developed Integrated Management Plan for Pomorie Lake was not approved, Green Balkans NGO continued implementation of foreseen activities.

In 2008 major rehabilitation of existing canal connecting the lagoon to the Black Sea was made leading to stabilized hydrological regime and ensured better maintenance further. Detailed technical design was developed for the rehabilitation of the drainage system that was protecting the lagoon from fresh water inflow and included two bypass channels, pump station and pipeline to the sea. High costs estimation of this project impeded its realization. Pomorie Lake visitor centre was built on the bank of the lagoon (next to Salt Museum) with main aim to raise awareness, support conservation of site and host proposed management body. While the first two aims were successfully achieved the last was blocked due to non-approved management plan.

From 2020 the visitor centre is being managed by Historical Museum of Pomorie as Municipality has not renewed agreement for its use by the NGO. Further restoration and creation of breeding habitat for birds was made in the form of larger artificial island by reconstruction of eroded inner dike in the lagoon. This islet was instant success hosting a mixed colony of Sandwich terns (2,400 pairs), Avocets, Black-winged stilts, Mediterranean and Slender-billed gulls, Gull-billed terns in the period 2013-2018. Unfortunately, regular disturbance by water sports (kite and wind surf) practiced in the lagoon (ban not being enforced effectively) led to abandonment of that islet and no breeding attempts were observed there after 2018. Breeding habitat of birds was further diversified with creation of wooden platforms in the western part of the lagoon (close to pump station) and western saltpans that are regularly use by Avocets and

Common terns. In 2010-2013 color-ringing scheme of Sandwich terns from the colony was implemented providing data on migration routes and wintering grounds (from Lanzarote to Israel).

Since 2014 new threats started to evolve: Pomorie Municipality seized the non-operated drainage pump station from Pomorie saltworks company. It was converted into stray dog management shelter and consequently part of the drainage canal adjacent to pump was filled with ground and blocked. In 2017, a project for enlargement of the road Burgas – Sunny beach started that included circular roads around Pomorie and Aheloy and enlargement of existing road through the Pomorie salt pans to a dual carriageway. In parallel with that, a brand-new holiday resort (Wave) was built just next to the northern edge of the salt pans. Both these projects have been subject to appropriate and environmental impact assessment that concluded no negative consequences are foreseen.

In 2019, Pomorie saltworks company and conservation non-governmental organisations have initiated development of project idea seeking solution to the problem of decreasing salinity of the lagoon that was main obstacle for normal operation of salt pans. LIFE19 NAT/BG/000804 LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON project combined expertise and knowledge of actors from different sectors: non-governmental organisations (Green Balkans NGO and Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation), private company (Pomorie saltworks) and scientific institute (Tour du Valat of France).

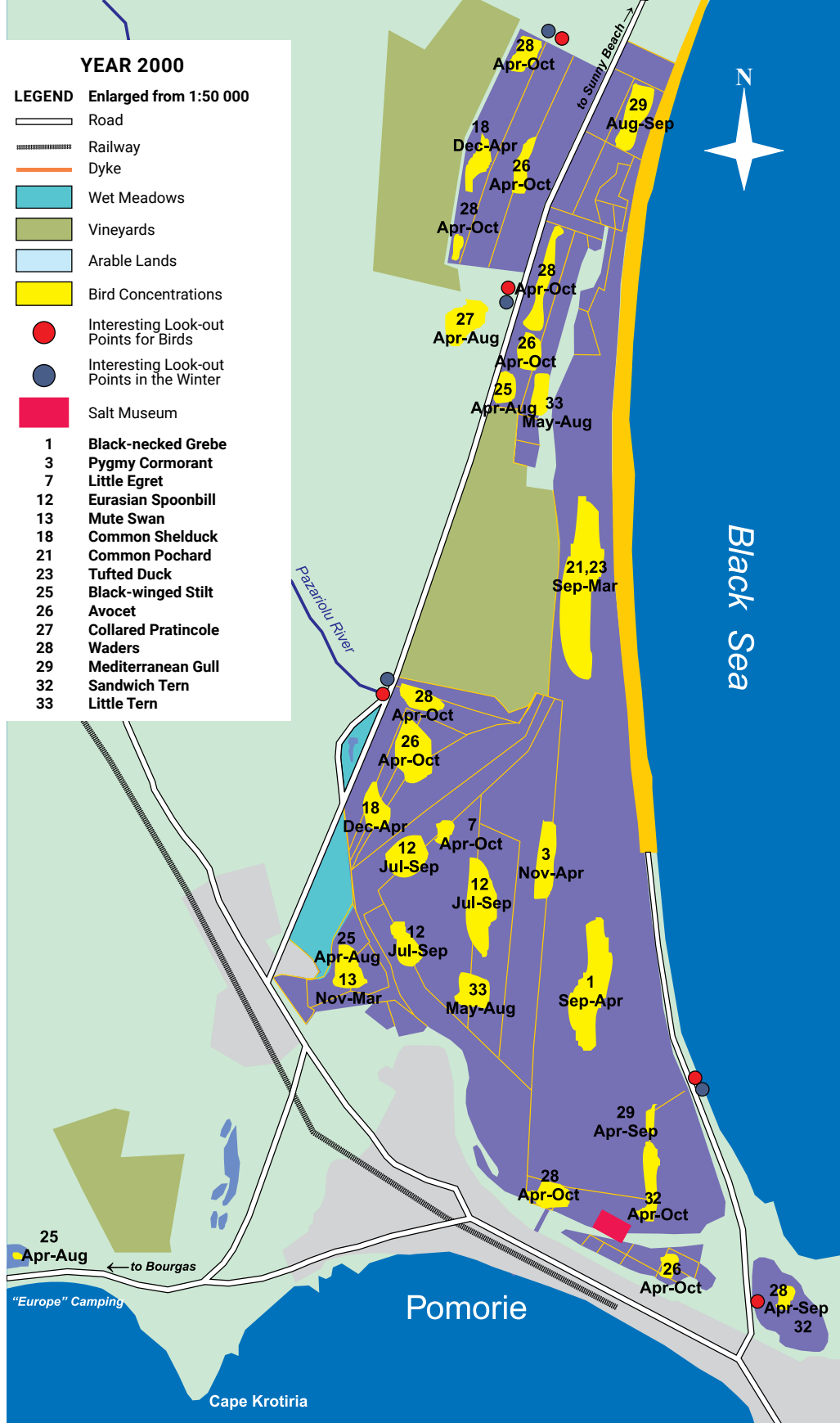
Main objective of the project was to tackle increasing threat for the lagoon by disrupted hydrological regime and increased freshwater inflow with resulting higher water level and decreased salinity. For achievement of that goal complete cleaning of 5,340 m of bypass protective canals and restoration of 6,460 m dykes that protect the salt pans and ensure water circulation was made. Additionally, restoration of existing 250 m² islet where the mixed colony of Avocets, Sandwich, Common and Little terns breeds and creation of new wooden platform for breeding of Avocets and Common terns was made. In the course of the project, it was revealed that part of the swamp on the western side of the lagoon together with part of the bypass protective canal was filled with land during circular road construction and new canal was cut directing Pazariolu River's straight into the lagoon. Despite several on-site checks with competitive authorities confirmed that fact and eventually Road Agency has been penalized, no effective steps were made for restoration and consequently a complaint was submitted to the European Commission by Pomorie saltworks. As a result of lower salinity, the saltwork company has ceased operation of salt pans since 2021 leading to loss of 22% of the wetland's area (prime habitat for migrating shorebirds). Hydrological regime is uncontrollable with consequent loss of birds' breeding grounds. We can conclude that despite the enormous efforts and funds invested in conservation and restoration of Pomorie Lagoon and the fact that the site is under various legal protection effective management and control are lacking.

YEAR 2000

LEGEND Enlarged from 1:50 000

-  Road
-  Railway
-  Dyke
-  Wet Meadows
-  Vineyards
-  Arable Lands
-  Bird Concentrations
-  Interesting Look-out Points for Birds
-  Interesting Look-out Points in the Winter
-  Salt Museum

- 1 Black-necked Grebe
- 3 Pygmy Cormorant
- 7 Little Egret
- 12 Eurasian Spoonbill
- 13 Mute Swan
- 18 Common Shelduck
- 21 Common Pochard
- 23 Tufted Duck
- 25 Black-winged Stilt
- 26 Avocet
- 27 Collared Pratincole
- 28 Waders
- 29 Mediterranean Gull
- 32 Sandwich Tern
- 33 Little Tern







CODE OF CONDUCT

Dear visitor,

Entering the vicinity of the saline lagoon, you step into a protected area. Here is a wildlife sanctuary, where paths are not always very noticeable and clearly marked. **Still, we recommend you to follow at your best the footpaths marked on the second map.** Entering the inner dikes and water of the lagoon is forbidden, for it is necessary to ensure maximum safety and non-disturbance of birds that are either breeding, feeding or resting during the long migration. If you by accident cause disturbance of birds, please get back instantly. Also, please do not pick or trample over plants as some of these are rare and protected.

The map is showing also the borders of the different protected areas that overlap at the site – national protected area, Ramsar site, Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation.

Please respect nature and behave responsibly while visiting this complex of protected areas. Have a nice and unforgettable moments in the world of wild nature!

The Green Balkans NGO's team

INFORMATION SOURCES AND METHODOLOGICAL COMMENTS

CATEGORIES OF BIRD SPECIES' POPULATIONS

VERY RARE

Occurring or breeding at intervals of at least 10 years (where reliable data exists)

RARE

Occurring or breeding less than annually

SCARCE

Less than 10 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually

UNCOMMON

Between 10 and 99 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually

FAIRLY COMMON

Between 100 and 999 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually

COMMON

Between 1,000 and 9,999 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually

ABUNDANT

More than 10,000 birds occurring or pairs breeding annually

For convenience the year has been divided into four periods as follows: the spring migration, followed by the breeding season, the autumn migration and the winter. An exception of this rule is made for the birds of the order Charadriiformes, for which the 'autumn migration' starts as early as in the end of July.

Seasonal status of the birds of Pomorie Lake

Resident (R)



No of species: 10

Spring migrant (SM)

Reference dates: 01.03 – 15.05



No of species: 198

Breeding (B)



No of species: 50

Summer visitor (SV)

Reference dates: 16.05 – 30.07



No of species: 61

Autumn migrant (AM)

Reference dates: 01.08 – 30.11



No of species: 214

Winter visitor (W)

Reference dates: 1.12 – 28.02



No of species: 125

Vagrant (V)



No of species: 7

Total: 297

In this publication all species have been adopted by Bulgarian Birds Rarities Committee (BgBRC). The names and systematic order are according the last published bulletin of the first 10 observations of all rare bird species in Bulgaria until 31st December 2019 and until 31st December 2022.

Species are represented in taxonomic sequence as per the latest version of the IOC World Bird List (v 13.1) 2023. <https://bunarco.org/bg/information.html>. Sometimes the information about a given species is too voluminous, detailed and fragmented. In such cases the authors chose only maximum numbers and earliest or latest records.

Bird species marked with * are breeding at the site.

Wildfowl (or Waterfowl) – ANATIDAE

Red-breasted Goose (*Branta ruficollis*)

Rare winter visitor, with max. 12 ind. on December 21st 2012.

Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Rare winter visitor. Recorded just a few times with a peak of 15 ind. on December 21st 2012.

Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*)

Fairly common winter visitor (max. 5,873 ind. on February 27th 2014).

Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor**)

Resident species. Uncommon spring (max. 117 ind. on March 14th 2007) and common autumn migrant and winter visitor (max. 1,190 ind. on December 25th 2002). Usually 2-3 breeding pairs at the site.

Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*)

Rare autumn migrant and winter visitor, with max. 53 ind. on November 7th 2021.

Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*)

Scarce spring migrant (max. 16 ind. on April 17th 1989) and winter visitor (max. 99 ind. on February 27th 2013).



Common Shelduck
©G. Meshkova

Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna**)

Resident. Common spring (max. 871 ind. on March 19th 2021) and autumn migrant (max. 1,300 ind. on September 10th 2009). Scarce breeder (max. 10 pairs) and common winter visitor. The lagoon is of international importance for wintering of the species with a peak of 3,055 ind. on December 15th 2022.

Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*)

Scarce to uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon summer visitor, with max. 62 ind. on June 2nd 2007. Rare winter visitor with a peak of 15 ind. on December 15th 2022.

Garganey (*Spatula querquedula*)

Fairly common spring, with max. 323 ind. on April 4th 2007 and autumn migrant, with max. 456 ind. on August 11th 2021. Earliest spring arrival March 2nd 2023 with 2 ind. Only one winter record: 2 birds on February 23rd 2016.

Northern Shoveler (*Spatula clypeata*)

Fairly common spring (max. 409 ind. on March 5th 2021) and autumn migrant (max. 320 ind.

in November 2021). Fairly common winter visitor with max. 500 ind. on January 31st 2018 (S. Gigov, eBird.org).

Gadwall (*Mareca strepera**)

Resident. Fairly common spring (max. 159 ind. on March 5th 2021) and uncommon autumn migrant. Scarce breeder, with max. 6 pairs (2020) and fairly common winter visitor (max. 183 ind. on February 18th 2021).

Eurasian Wigeon (*Mareca penelope*)

Fairly common spring and autumn migrant. Common winter visitor with max. 2,000 ind. on January 31st 2018 (S. Gigov, eBird.org) and 2,067 ind. on December 24th 2020.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos**)

Resident. Common spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon breeder, with max. 3 pairs in 2009. The highest winter count was 5,000 ind. on December 3rd 2016 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org).

Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*)

Uncommon spring (max. 80 ind. on April 15th 1999) and autumn migrant, (max. 50 ind. on November 15th 2005). Common winter visitor with peak of 200 ind. on January 15th 2023 (Y. Dobrev, eBird.org).

Eurasian Teal (*Anas crecca*)

Fairly common spring and autumn migrant. Common winter visitor with peak of 2,390 ind. on December 28th 2021.

Red-crested Pochard (*Netta rufina*)

Scarce spring migrant. Uncommon winter visitor, with max. 37 ind. on December 15th 2001.

Common Pochard (*Aythya ferina*)

Common spring and autumn migrant (max. 2,293 ind. on October 15th 2015). Common winter visitor, with max. 4,912 ind. on December 15th 1998.

Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*)

Scarce to uncommon spring migrant (max. 24 ind. on April 22nd 2021). Scarce winter visitor with max. 16 ind. on February 29th 2012.

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*)

Common winter visitor with max. 4,500 ind. on February 1st 1997 but decreasing ever after.

Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*)

Regular visitor in recent winters with a peak of 30 ind. on February 14th 2012 and rare spring and autumn migrant with a single record each.



Common Eider (*Somateria mollissima*)

Recorded a few times, 1 ind. on April 18th 1989, 15 ind. on January 19th 1994, 2 ind. on June 2nd 1999 and 1 ind. on April 11th 2002. Most recently 2 birds stayed between February 18th and March 5th 2021.

Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)

Rare, recorded just a few times, 1 ind. on April 18th 1989, 12 ind. on February 12th 2005 and 7 ind. on December 13th 2007 and most recently a single bird on February 22nd 2023.

Common Scoter (*Melanitta nigra*)

Recorded only three times: 3 ind. on January 15th 1994; 2 ind. on February 1st 2000 and 2 ind. on December 2nd 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Long-tailed Duck (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Recorded four times: 6 ind. on December 1st 1976, Roberts (1978); 1 ind. on August 1st 2000 (P. Yankov, 2001); 5 ind. on March 6th 2012 and 3 ind. on January 19th 2021 (N. Kolev, observation.org).

Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)

Rare winter visitor with only five records: 2 ind. on December 15th 1998; 3 ind. on February 1st 2002; 17 ind. on February 14th 2012; 6 ind. on December 11th 2014 and 4 ind. on February 5th 2021.

Smew (*Mergus albellus*)

Scarce winter visitor (max. 46 ind. on February 14th 2012).

Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*)

Rare winter visitor with max. numbers: 22 ind. on January 15th 1977, 4 ind. on January 14th 2017 (G. Gradev, Green Balkans NGO's database), 6 ind. on February 1st 2017 (L. Vassileva & S. Gigov, eBird.org) and 8 ind. on March 6th 2021 (A. Bailey, eBird.org).

Red-breasted Merganser (*Mergus serrator*)

Uncommon spring migrant with max. 80 ind. on March 8th 2022. Uncommon to fairly common winter visitor (max. 360 ind. on January 15th 1977).

White-headed Duck (*Oxyura leucocephala*)

Very rare. Recorded a few times (max. 24 ind. on December 11th 2019).

Pheasants & Partridges – PHASIANIDAE

Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix**)

Resident. Scarce breeder.

Common Quail (*Coturnix coturnix**)

Fairly common spring and autumn migrant. Scarce breeder.

Nightjars – CAPRIMULGIDAE

European Nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

Scarce spring migrant (1 ind. on April 18th 1989).

Swifts – APODIDAE

Alpine Swift (*Tachymarptis melba*)

Scarce spring (max. 2 ind. on April 21st 1992) and autumn migrant with max. 4 ind. on Sep 10th 2009.

Common Swift (*Apus apus**)

Fairly common spring (max. 170 ind. on Apr 17th 2017) and autumn migrant (max. 140 ind. on Aug 14th 1979 – Roberts, 1981). Common breeder under the roofs of the buildings around the lake with a peak count of 500 ind. on June 7th 2017 (S. Gigov, eBird.org).

Pallid Swift (*Apus pallidus*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant with just few records: 20 ind. on May 11th 2010, 1 ind. on September 10th 2003 (B. Scott) and 2 ind. on September 15th 2019 (S. Phillips, eBird.org). Breeding was observed in June 2007 on building of St. George hotel (E. Molgaard, pers. comm.).

Bustards – OTIDIDAE

Little Bustard (*Tetrax tetrax*)

Rare winter visitor, observed only once: 2 birds on February 18th 2022.

Cuckoos – CUCULIDAE

Common Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus**)

Scarce spring (max. 6 ind. on April 25th 2007) and autumn migrant (2 ind. on September 8th 2007).

Pigeons & Doves – COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove (*Columba livia*)

A flock of about 15-20 birds is observed all year round in the surroundings of the lake with a peak of 500 ind. on January 31st 2018 (S. Gigov, eBird.org).

Stock Dove (*Columba oenas*)

Uncommon spring (max. 15 ind. on April 11th 2002) and winter visitor (max. 20 ind. on December 15th 2001).

Common Wood Pigeon (*Columba palumbus*)

Uncommon spring (max. 150 ind. on April 11th 2002) and winter visitor (max. 10 ind. on December 15th 2001). Common autumn visitor with a peak of 3,100 ind. on October 15th 2015.

European Turtle Dove (*Streptopelia turtur*)

Scarce spring (max. 1 ind. on April 11th 2002) and fairly common autumn migrant (max. 400 ind. in August 1995).

Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto**)

Scarce to uncommon resident with a peak of 100 ind. on February 2nd 2019 (D. Vasapolli, eBird.org).

Rails, Crakes & Coots – RALLIDAE

Water Rail (*Rallus aquaticus**)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant (15 ind. on October 10th 1988). Uncommon winter visitor. Scarce breeder: max. 2 pairs.

Corn Crake (*Crex crex*)

Scarce migrant. One dead bird on November 10th 1986 and one alive individual on September 17th 2022 (J. Vanryckeghem, observation.org).

Spotted Crake (*Porzana porzana*)

Scarce autumn migrant and rare winter visitor with peak of 3 ind. on September 20th 2022 (I. Hristov & group, eBird.org).

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus**)

Uncommon resident and breeder (1 female with 5 chicks observed on June 26th 2007).

Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra**)

Resident. Abundant in autumn and winter (max. 21,170 ind. on October 15th 2015) and scarce breeder.



Baillon's Crake (*Zapornia pusilla*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant. Recorded twice: 1 ind. on August 28th 1999 and 1 ind. on March 23rd 2003. No breeding records.

Little Crake (*Zapornia parva*)

Scarce and autumn migrant. Recorded twice: 1 ind. on April 16th 1995 and 1 ind. on April 17th 2001 (Gradev, 2003).

Cranes – GRUIDAE

Demoiselle Crane (*Anthropoides virgo*)

One record of 10 birds: August 7th 1982 (Boev, 1985).

Common Crane (*Grus grus*)

The species is recorded twice during spring migration: about 100 ind. in the middle of March 2002 and 9 ind. on March 26th 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org). One record in autumn migration: 10 birds on November 23rd 2020.

Grebes – PODICIPEDIDAE

Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis**)

Uncommon spring (max. 44 ind. on March 19th 2021) and autumn migrant (81 ind. on October 29th 2021). Uncommon winter visitor (max. 179 ind. on January 15th 1984). Occasional breeder.

Red-necked Grebe (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor with max. 210 ind. in the period October 29th – November 5th 1974 (Nankinov, 1981).

Great-crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus**)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant (max. 236 ind. on September 20th 2015) and winter visitor (max. 193 ind. on Dec 1st 1998). Occasional breeder, recorded in 2014 and 2022.

Horned/Slavonian Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*)

Very rare passage migrant and winter visitor, recorded just few times – 2 ind. on November 7th 1975 (Nankinov, 1979); 2 ind. on February 23rd 1981 (Prange, 1988); 1 ind. on December 17th 1999 (Dimitrov et al., 2005); 4 ind. on February 1st 2011 (D. Petrakiev, eBird.org); 3 ind. on November 27th 2021 (A. Bailey, eBird.org) and 16 ind. on March 24th 2022.

Black-necked Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Fairly common spring and autumn migrant with max. 418 ind. on March 16th 2018 and 407 ind. on August 27th 2001 (Gradev, 2003). Fairly common winter visitor (max. 771 ind. on January 15th 1977).

Flamingos – PHOENICOPTERIDAE

Greater Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*)

First recorded in November 2010 and gradually increasing in recent years with a peak in winter of 1,050 ind. on February 11th 2023 and 753 ind. in autumn on August 4th 2022.

Stone-curlews – BURHINIDAE

Eurasian Stone-curlew (*Burhinus oedipnemos*)

Only one record in spring of a single ind. on March 30th 2023.

Oystercatchers – HAEMATOPODIDAE

Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus**)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant with peak of 60 ind. on July 26th 2021. Rare breeder with 1-2 pairs.

Stilts & Avocets – RECURVIROSTRIDAE



Black-winged Stilt
© D. Popov

Black-winged Stilt

(*Himantopus himantopus**)

Fairly common spring and autumn migrant with peak of 215 ind. on July 14th 2021. Common breeder in the area: max. 147 breeding pairs in 2013. Highest count for the site: 247 ind. on June 26th 2007.



Pied Avocet
© D. Popov

Pied Avocet

(*Recurvirostra avosetta**)

Common spring and autumn migrant with peaks of 817 ind. on April 23rd 2015 and 1,500 on August 12th 1966 (Robel et al., 1978). Common breeder with maximum 164 pairs in 2013. Rare winter visitor (max. count: 280 ind. on January 16th 2011). The site is the second most important breeding site in Bulgaria.

Plovers – CHARADRIIDAE

Northern Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus**)

Fairly uncommon (max. 60 ind. on June 27th 2007) and autumn migrant (max. 272 ind. on November 29th 2021). Breeding species at the site (max. 6 breeding pairs on June 2nd 2007).

Spur-winged Lapwing (*Vanellus spinosus*)

Vagrant. Recorded twice 1 ind. on 24th May 1985, (Dimitrov et al., 2005) and 2 ind. on April 13th 2014 (J. Vanheeuverswyn, eBird.org).

Sociable Lapwing (*Vanellus gregarius*)

Vagrant. Recorded once: 1 ind. on May 24th 1985 (Bruce Martin and M. Dimitrov in Dimitrov et al., 2005).

White-tailed Lapwing

(*Vanellus leucurus*)

Vagrant. Recorded once: 1 ind. on May 5th 2022 (L. Mannzen, BUNARCO.org and D. Popov & G. Meshkova).

European Golden Plover

(*Pluvialis apricaria*)

Fairly rare spring migrant with a peak of 88 ind. on March 8th 2022. Recorded as a summer visitor: 2 ind. in breeding plumage on June 9th 2007.



White-tailed Lapwing
D. Popov

Grey Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Uncommon spring (max. 47 ind. on March 5th 2021) and autumn migrant (max. 44 ind. on October 27th 2022). Uncommon winter visitor at the lake (max. 68 ind. on February 5th 2021).

Common Ringed Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

Uncommon spring (max. 30 ind. on May 15th 2000) and autumn migrant (max. 217 ind. on August 2nd 2009).

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius**)

Rare spring (max. 13 birds on May 15th 2014) and autumn migrant with peak of 72 ind. on August 19th 2008 (D. Mitev, eBird.org). Rare breeder at the site (2 breeding pairs in 2020-22).

Kentish Plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus**)

Uncommon spring (max. 42 ind. on April 26th 2008) and autumn migrant (max. 103 ind. on July 15th 2021). Fairly common breeder at the site: max. 28 breeding pairs in 2009 making the site as second most important nationally. Rare winter visitor (max. 17 ind. on December 24th 2020).

Greater Sand Plover (*Charadrius leschenaultii*)

Vagrant. Recorded twice: 1 ind. in May 2013 and on August 3rd 2013 (D. Mitev, eBird.org).

Sandpipers, Snipes – SCOLOPACIDAE



Eurasian Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Rare to uncommon spring (max. 13 ind. on April 29th 2023) and autumn migrant (max. 3 ind. on September 6th 2009). No wintering birds observed.

Slender-billed Curlew

(*Numenius tenuirostris*)

Extremely rare migrant observed once in September 1996 without any subsequent records.

Eurasian Curlew (*Numenius arquata*)

Fairly common spring (max. 11 ind. on April 4th 2007) and autumn migrant (max.

13 ind. on August 24th 2009). Rare winter visitor with max. 9 ind. on January 1st 1997.

Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*)

Very rare spring and autumn migrant with just a few records: 1 ind. on March 1st 1981 (Prange, 1988), 1 ind. on September 8th 2003 and max. 3 ind. on September 26th 2010 (T. Stefanov, eBird.org).

Black-tailed Godwit (*Limosa limosa*)

Common spring (max. 700 ind. on April 19th 2006) and autumn migrant (max. 179 ind. on August 4th 2022).

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Uncommon spring (max. 12 on May 12th 2007) and autumn migrant (max. 48 ind. on August 11th 2021).

Great Knot (*Calidris tenuirostris*)



Vagrant. Recorded only once, that being first record for Bulgaria and the Balkan Peninsula, when a single bird stayed in the period September 2nd-13th 2021 (N. Kolev, observation.org).

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*)

Rare migrant. Few records with maximum number of 15 ind. on March 1st 1981 (Prange, 1988) and 15 ind. on September 21st 2016 (K. de Keersmaecker, observation.org).

Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

Common spring (max. 1,240 ind. on April 19th 2000) and autumn migrant (max. 780 ind. on September 8th 2006). Rare winter visitor.

Broad-billed Sandpiper

(*Calidris falcinellus*)

Rare spring with peak of 34 ind. on May 23rd 2018 (S. Gigov, eBird.org) and more common autumn migrant (max. 160 ind. on August 19th 1991).

Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Common spring (max. 4,480 ind. on May 15th 2000) and fairly common autumn migrant (max. 452 ind. on July 23rd 2009). Fairly rare summer visitor (max. 43 ind. on June 12th 2009).

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*)

Rare spring with peak of 88 ind. on March 14th 2002 (Gradev, 2003) and autumn migrant (max. 62 ind. on September 17th 2006).

Sanderling (*Calidris alba*)

Rare spring (max. 35 ind. on May 9th 2001) and autumn migrant (max. 60 ind. on September 22nd 2004). Fairly rare wintering species with max. number of 13 ind. on January 15th 1994.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*)

Fairly common spring (max. 555 ind. on March 24th 2022) and autumn migrant (max. 667 ind. on November 9th 2020). Common winter visitor (max. 2,592 ind. on January 23rd 2021).

Little Stint (*Calidris minuta*)

Common spring (max. 1,743 ind. on May 1st 2000) and autumn migrant (max. 840 ind. on August 22nd 2009). Rare winter visitor: max. 300 ind. on December 13th 2007.



Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*)

Vagrant. Recorded only once: 1 ind. on September 22nd and 23rd 2010 (S. Feeney & J. Donaldson, BUNARCO.org).

Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Rare migrant with just three records: 1 ind. on August 17th 2001; 3 ind. on December 13th 2002 and 1 ind. on January 31st 2014.

Jack Snipe (*Limnocryptes minimus*)

Very rare migrant with only one record of a single bird: September 10th 2021 (N. Velkov, eBird.org).

Great Snipe (*Gallinago media*).

Rare spring and autumn visitor with max. 2 ind. on March 14th 2007 and September 15th 2021.

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Rare spring (2 ind. on April 4th 2022) and autumn migrant: max. 36 ind. on September 26th 2019 (T. Stefanov, eBird.org). Rare winter visitor (3 ind. on December 13th 2002 and December 11th 2014).



Terek Sandpiper
©E. Dakov

Terek Sandpiper (*Xenus cinereus*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant. Single birds observed mostly during autumn migration: 1 ind. on May 3rd 2021 (G. Veleva, pers. com.), 2 ind. on September 20th and 22nd 2008 and again 2 ind. on August 22nd 2009.

Wilsons Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*)

Single ind. was observed in a mixed flock of waders in the period August 25-26th 1992 (Nankinov, 1999).

Red-necked Phalarope

(*Phalaropus lobatus*)

Uncommon spring (max. 1 female on May 19th 1997) and more common autumn migrant (max. 118 ind. on August 8th 2008).

Red Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Very rare spring and autumn migrant with only two records: 1 ind. on June 1st 2021 (Z. Grigorov, BUNARCO.org) and 1 ind. on October 9th 2019 (T. Georgiev, BUNARCO.org).



Red Phalarope
©A. Hadzhiyski

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Uncommon spring (max. 7 on April 16th

2007) and autumn (max. 34 on July 26th 2021) migrant. Rare summer visitor with max. 14 on June 26th 2007. Earliest spring record on March 15th 2009.

Green Sandpiper (*Tringa ochropus*)

Uncommon spring (max. 11 on March 15th 2007) and autumn migrant (max. 20 on August 5th 2009). Rare summer (max. 5 ind. on June 27th 2007) and winter (max. 5 on January 23rd 2021) visitor.

Common Redshank (*Tringa totanus*)

Fairly common spring (max. 115 ind. on April 17th 2009) and common autumn migrant (max. 1,200 ind. on October 10th 1989). Fairly common summer (max. 267 on June 26th 2007) and uncommon winter (max. 110 ind. on January 17th 2009) visitor.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*)

Uncommon spring (max. 97 ind. on April 17th 2009) and fairly common autumn migrant (max. 600 ind. on September 15th 1999).

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

Fairly common spring (max. 300 on May 1st 1999) and autumn (max. 558 on August 19th 2022) migrant. The earliest birds during spring migration recorded on April 3rd 2014 – 55 ind.

Spotted Redshank (*Tringa erythropus*)

Fairly common spring (max. 188 ind. on April 23rd 2015) and autumn migrant with peak of 120 ind. on September 26th 2010 (T. Stefanov, eBird.org). Fairly common summer (max. 219 on July 1st 1999) and rare winter (max. 22 ind. on January 15th 2012) visitor.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*)

Fairly common spring (max. 119 ind. on April 20th 2022) and not so common autumn migrant (max. 45 ind. on August 11th 2021). Rare summer visitor (max. 19 ind. on July 14th 2021).

Coursers & Pratincoles – GLAREOLIDAE

Collared Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola**)

Common spring (max. 379 ind. on April 24th 2023) and autumn migrant (max. 192 ind. on July 26th 2021). Fairly rare breeder at the site (max. numbers 20-30 breeding pairs in years 2014, 2015 and 2021).

Black-winged Pratincole

(*Glareola nordmanni*)

Very rare spring and autumn migrant with a few records: 1 ind. on May 5th 2022 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org); 5 ind. on September 26th 2015 (D. Mitev, eBird.org) and single ind. on September 16th 2021 (J. Szabo and C. Fântână, BUNARCO.org); September 17th 2021 (I. Hristov, eBird.org) and September 21st 2021 (E. Naudot, eBird.org).



Black-winged Pratincole
©I. Hristov

Gulls, Terns, Skimmers – LARIDAE

Slender-billed Gull (*Chroicocephalus genei**)

Uncommon spring (max. 30 on April 17th 2007) and fairly common autumn migrant (max. 165 on October 1st 2001). Rare to uncommon winter visitor with max. 20 ind. on January 15th 1977. Uncommon summer visitor with max. 40 ind. on June 2nd 2005. Breeding of 3 pairs was recorded in 2015.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus**)

Fairly common spring (max. 137 on March 16th 2007) and common autumn migrant (max. 1,580 on July 21st 2010). Fairly common winter (max. 567 on January 15th 1981) and summer visitor (max. 959 on July 15th 2005). Nesting was recorded in 2013 with 12 pairs.

Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)

Fairly common spring (max. 350 on April 16th 2007) and common autumn migrant (max. 3,200 on September 20th 2008). Very rare winter visitor with max. 24 ind. on January 15th 1980.

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)

Vagrant. Only one record of single bird on July 31st 2000 (N. Todorov, BUNARCO.org).

Audouin's Gull (*Ichthyiaetus audouinii*)

Vagrant. Only one record of single bird on September 23rd 2006 (P. Yankov et al., BUNARCO.org).



Mediterranean Gull
©D. Popov

Mediterranean Gull

(*Ichthyiaetus melanocephalus**)

Uncommon spring (max. 65 ind. on April 16th 2007) and common autumn migrant (max. 2,600 on August 1st 1999). Rare winter visitor with max. 4 ind. on January 15th 1985. Nesting at the site was confirmed in 2013 and 2015 with respectively 7 and 22 pairs.

Pallas's Gull (*Ichthyiaetus ichthyiaetus*)

Very rare autumn, spring and winter visitor: max. 3 ind. on September 12th 1988. In recent years solitary birds on February 18th 2021 and March 2nd 2023.

Common Gull (*Larus canus*)

Rare winter visitor with a few records and peak of 70 ind. on January 15th 1997.

Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans*)

Uncommon winter visitor with max. 20 ind. on January 31st 2018 (S. Gigov, eBird.org).

Yellow-legged Gull (*Larus michahellis**)

Common resident with max. 1300 ind. on September 4th 2007. Commonly nests on roofs in town including buildings close to the lake.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

Very rare spring and autumn migrant with peak of 5 ind. on April 8th 2014 (S. Gigov, eBird.org).

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica**)

Uncommon spring (max. 9 ind. on April 17th 2001) and rare autumn migrant. Breeding at the site was observed twice: 35 pairs in 2015 and 55 pairs in 2017.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Uncommon spring (max. 9 ind. on April 1st 1999) and autumn with max. 16 ind. on September 10th 2016 (S. Gigov, eBird.org). Very rare summer visitor: single bird on June 1st 2000.

Sandwich Tern

(*Thalasseus sandvicensis**)

Common migratory breeder. Max. number during spring migration: 2,124 birds on April 20th 2007, and during autumn migration: 3,100 ind. on August 20th 2009. The site is hosting the largest colony on the Balkan Peninsula. First breeding record: 6 pairs in 1996. The largest breeding numbers: 2,400 pairs recorded in 2013, 2015 and 2020.

Little Tern (*Sternula albifrons**)

Fairly common spring (max. 500 ind. on May 20th 2014) and autumn migrant with max. 214 ind. on August 14th 2016 (Profirov & P. Fetting, eBird.org). The site is the second most important in Bulgaria for breeding of the species with highest number of 74 breeding pairs in 2020.

Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo**)

Common spring (max. 1,000 ind. on May 15th 2014) and fairly common autumn migrant (max. 604 ind. on August 19th 2022). The site is the second most important nationally for breeding of the



Sandwich Tern
©D. Popov



Little Tern
©D. Popov



Common Tern
©L. Profirov

species with highest number of 342 breeding pairs in 2021.

Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Very rare migrant. Several records of 1 ind. each: on September 14th 2001 by B. Soerensen; on September 24th 2002 and on September 14th, 17th and 19th 2004 by A. Vincont (Dimitrov et al., 2005).

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Fairly common spring (max. 100 ind. on May 11th 2011) and uncommon autumn migrant (max. 25 ind. on September 9th 2005). Rare species during summer (max. 11 on July 15th 1999). First spring birds recorded on April 9th 2015.

White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucoptera*)

Fairly common spring (max. 300 ind. on April 30th 2011) and uncommon autumn migrant (max. 45 ind. on August 7th 2001).

Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*)

Common spring (max. 1,200 ind. on May 10th 2011) and fairly common autumn (max. 312 ind. on August 1st 1999).

Skuas – STERCORARIIDAE

Pomarine Jaeger (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Very rare autumn visitor. One record of single bird on November 28th 2002 (Dimitrov et al., 2005).

Parasitic Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

Regular spring and autumn visitor with max. numbers: 39 ind. on August 1st 1999, 6 ind. on September 13th 2019 (C. Chapleo, N. Whitehouse & S. Robson, eBird.org) and 3 ind. on September 9th 2018 (S. Gigov, eBird.org).

Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

Very rare. Recorded once: 1 ind. on August 1st 1999 (Dimitrov et al., 2005).

Loons – GAVIIDAE

Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*)

Very rare winter visitor. 3 records: 17 ind. in the period October 29th – November 5th 1974 (Nankinov, 1978); 1 ind. on April 15th 1996 and 2 ind. on March 25th 2022 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Black-throated Loon (*Gavia arctica*)

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor: max. 96 ind. on January 22nd 2023 (I. Dimchev, eBird.org).

Common Loon (*Gavia immer*)

Very rare winter visitor. 3 records: 5 ind. in the period October 29th – November 5th 1974 (Nankinov, 1978); 1 ind. on January 6th 1970 (Johnson and Hafner, 1970). 1 ind. on April 7th 2018 (J. Nakev & J. Popov, BUNARCO.org).



Common Loon
© J. Nakev

Petrels & Shearwaters – PROCELLARIIDAE

Yelkouan Shearwater (*Puffinus yelkouan*)

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor. July 14th 1971 – many thousands (Robel, 1978), May 14th 2003 – 2,500 ind. and April 22nd 2021 – 905 ind. in the bay.

Storks – CICONIIDAE

Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*)

Fairly common spring migrant and common autumn migrant (peak daily numbers: 540 ind. on September 29th 2015). 1-2 ind. regularly feed at the site in summer.

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia**).

Common to abundant spring and abundant autumn migrant (peak daily numbers 58,100 ind. on September 8th 2007). Rare breeder (1 pair) in the vicinity of the lagoon.

Cormorants, Shags – PHALACROCORACIDAE

Pygmy Cormorant (*Microcarbo pygmeus*)

Fairly common spring (max. 658 ind. on April 1st 2021) and autumn (max. 670 ind. on October 15th 2015) migrant. Fairly common winter (max. 190 ind. on December 1st 1999) and uncommon summer visitor.

Great Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor (up to 250 ind. on February 18th 2007). Common summer visitor (1,450 ind. on June 28th 2007).

European Shag (*Gulosus aristotelis*)

Rare. Max. 90 ind. on October 17th 2020 (BSPB SmartBirds Team, eBird.org).

Ibises & Spoonbills – THRESKIORNITHIDAE



Glossy Ibis
-D. Popov

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Fairly common spring and autumn migrant with max. 153 ind. on September 20th 2010. Uncommon summer visitor with max. 34 ind. on June 7th 2007.

Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant (max. 52 ind. on September 1st 1996). The lake is used as foraging grounds by birds nesting at Poda Lagoon.

Herons & Bitterns – ARDEIDAE

Eurasian Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant as well as winter visitor with max. 3 on April 14th 2001. Most recently a single bird was observed on April 30th 2021. No breeding evidence to date.

Little Bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus**)

Breeding species in past years but not observed over the past 10 years. Max. number of breeding pairs was 4 in 2007. Observed peak was 5 ind. on August 19th 1998 (K. Rainio, eBird.org).

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant: max. 10 ind. on September 20th 2021 (R. Jansen, observation.org).

Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

Uncommon spring (max. 14 ind. on April 17th 2014) and autumn migrant.

Western Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Vagrant. Two observations: 1 ind. on May 10th 2015 (G. Moris, eBird.org) and 2 ind. on August 4th 2022.

Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*)

Uncommon spring (85 ind. on April 1st 1999) and common autumn migrant (max. 310 ind. on September 6th 1995); uncommon summer (max. 29 ind. on July 14th 2021) and winter visitor (max. 71 ind. on January 12th 2020). No breeding records.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*)

Uncommon spring (max. 9 ind. on April 1st 1999) and autumn migrant (max. 44 ind. on September 6th 1995).

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Scarce to uncommon spring migrant (max. 12 ind. in March 2007) and fairly common autumn migrant; uncommon winter visitor (max. 73 ind. on January 15th 1982 and January 11th 2019).

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*)

Uncommon spring (max. 40 ind. in April 2007) and uncommon to fairly common autumn migrant with max. 233 ind. on August 1st 2001. Uncommon summer visitor with max. 41 ind. on June 27th 2007. Rare winter visitor with max. 8 ind. on December 7th 2014.

Pelicans – PELECANIDAE**Great White Pelican** (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*)

Fairly common spring (max 139 ind. on April 16th 2001) and autumn migrant with daily peak of 7,500 ind. on September 1st 1997 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org).

Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*)

Scarce spring to fairly common autumn migrant (peak daily numbers 150 ind. on September 2nd 2007).

Ospreys – PANDIONIDAE**Osprey** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant with peak of 3 ind. on September 20th 2006 (J-L. Carlo, eBird.org) and September 23rd 2018 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org).

Kites, Hawks & Eagles – ACCIPITRIDAE**Egyptian Vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus*)

Recorded once: 1 ind. on September 15th 1998.

European Honey Buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)

Common spring (max. 119 ind. on April 20th 2007) and abundant autumn migrant (peak daily numbers 1,390 ind. on August 26th 1999).

Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*)

Recorded once: 1 ind. on October 3rd 2005.

Short-toed Snake Eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant (max. 12 ind. on September 12th 2001).

Lesser Spotted Eagle (*Clanga pomarina*)

Fairly common spring and common autumn migrant with peak daily numbers 3,000 on September 23rd 2016 (Y. Kutsarov, eBird.org).

Greater Spotted Eagle (*Clanga clanga*)

Scarce spring (seasonal max. 3 ind. on April 16th 2001) and autumn migrant.

Booted Eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*)

Scarce spring (seasonal max. 4 ind. on April 22nd 2021) and autumn migrant (max 6 ind. on September 16th 1999).

Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*)

Recorded twice: one on September 27th 2005 and one on October 10th 2020 (N. Kolev, observation.org).

Eastern Imperial Eagle (*Aquila heliaca*)

Only one record of two birds on September 19th 2006 (R. Quinnell, eBird.org).

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

Recorded twice: 1 ind. on September 25th 2013 (M. Dimitrov, pers. com.) and 1 ind. on September 16th 2018 (AJ Collins-Smith, eBird.org).

Levant Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant: max 37 ind. on September 17th 2016 (M. Emmers, observation.org).

Eurasian Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter nisus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant: max. 19 ind. on September 29th 2001. Scarce winter visitor.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant: max. 3 ind. on September 29th 2001 and September 28th 2020. Scarce winter visitor.

Western Marsh Harrier (*Circus aeruginosus**)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant (peak daily numbers 41 ind. on September 8th 2009). Max. breeding pairs at the site are 2.

Hen Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant max. 3 ind. on December 15th 2001.

Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant with just few records (5 in eBird.org and 1 in observation.org).

Montagu's Harrier (*Circus pygargus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant with max. 5 ind. on September 22nd 2004.

Red Kite (*Milvus milvus*)

Recorded once: 1 ind. on September 8th 2009.

Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*)

Scarce to uncommon spring and autumn migrant: max 8 ind. on May 12th 2022 (D. Mitev, eBird.org).

White-tailed Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*)

Rare migrant and winter visitor. Recorded a few times with max. 2 ind. on September 8th 2007 and November 22nd 2022 (T. Silver, eBird.org).

Rough-legged Buzzard (*Buteo lagopus*)

Single birds were recorded few times in winter with latest being on January 7th 2021.

Long-legged Buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*)

Scarce spring, autumn and winter visitor with max. 4 ind. on April 16th 2001 and September 23rd 2016 (Y. Kutsarov, eBird.org).

Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*)

Common spring and autumn migrant with peak daily numbers of 1,200 (BSPB SmartBirds Team, eBird.org). Scarce to uncommon winter visitor.

Barn Owls – TYTONIDAE**Western Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba**)

Resident. Scarce spring and autumn migrant. Breeds regularly with 1-2 pairs. Scarce wintering.

Owls – STRIGIDAE**Little Owl** (*Athene noctua**)

Scarce resident. 3-4 pairs on the roofs of buildings around the lake.

Eurasian Scops Owl (*Otus scops*)

Rare. 1 ind. heard on May 18th 1990.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus**)

Scarce resident. Few pairs breeding in town.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Scarce spring: 1 ind. on March 3rd 2021 (N. Kolev, observation.org) and autumn migrant: 1 ind. on November 10th 2017 and October 13th 2020. Scarce winter visitor with records in December 2014 and February 2023.

Hoopoes – UPUPIDAE**Eurasian Hoopoe** (*Upupa epops**)

Scarce spring (max. 5 ind. on April 3rd 2014) and autumn migrant. Scarce breeder.

Rollers – CORACIIDAE**European Roller** (*Coracias garrulus**)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant (6 in August 1995). Scarce breeder at the site in electricity poles next to salt pans.

Kingfishers – ALCEDINIDAE**Common Kingfisher** (*Alcedo atthis**)

Resident. Max. 3 breeding pairs counted in 2007.

Bee-eaters – MEROPIDAE

European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*)

Uncommon spring (max. 54 ind. on May 15th 2007) and autumn (max. 250 ind. on September 20th 2015) migrant.

Woodpeckers – PICIDAE

Eurasian Wryneck (*Jynx torquilla*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant: 2 ind. on May 16th 2004 and 3 ind. ringed in the period September 8-9th 2007.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocoptes medius*)

Recorded twice. 1 ind. on Sept. 10th 2000 and 1 ind. on January 8th 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (*Dryobates minor*)

Recorded once: 1 ind. on September 26th 2018 (E. Cuvelier, observation.org).

Syrian Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos syriacus*)

Scarce resident. Max. 4 ind. on November 26th 2020 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Great Spotted Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos major*)

Scarce resident. One ind. on December 13th 2002 and 1 ind. on April 30th 2019 (Ø. Hegge, eBird.org).

European Green Woodpecker (*Picus viridis*)

Scarce resident. One ind. heard on May 30th 1996, 1 ind. seen at the Aheloy River mouth on August 16th 1996 and 1 ind. on July 18th 2020.

Grey-headed Woodpecker (*Picus canus*)

Rare species with a single record of 1 ind. on May 18th 1990.

Falcons – FALCONIDAE

Common Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus**)

Resident. Uncommon spring and scarce autumn migrant (peak daily numbers 19 ind. on September 29th 2001). There are 4 pairs around the northern salt pans.

Red-footed Falcon (*Falco vespertinus*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant with daily peak of 900 ind. on September 20th 2021 (R. Jansen, observation.org).

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant and winter visitor with peak of 7 ind. on February 14th 2012.

Eurasian Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant. Peak daily numbers 6 ind. on September 25th 2002 (L. Berthou, eBird.org).

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant (peak daily numbers 2 ind. on April 11th 2002).

Shrikes – LANIIDAE**Red-backed Shrike** (*Lanius collurio**)

Scarce spring with max. 4 ind. in May 1990 and scarce to uncommon autumn migrant (max. 39 caught in mist nets in September 2007). Scarce breeder.

Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor**)

Scarce spring (max. 2 on May 19th 1990) and scarce autumn migrant (1 on August 5th 2009). Rare breeder.

Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*)

Rare winter visitor with just one record of 1 ind. on November 11th 2021 (I. Dimchev, eBird.org)

Woodchat Shrike (*Lanius senator*)

Rare spring migrant with one record of 1 ind. on April 27th 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Orioles – ORIOLIDAE**Eurasian Golden Oriole** (*Oriolus oriolus**)

Scarce migrant max. 2 on May 28th 2001 and 4 on July 22nd 2022 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org). Scarce breeder.

Crows, Jays – CORVIDAE**Eurasian Jay** (*Garrulus glandarius*)

One record: 2 ind. on January 19th 1999.

Eurasian Magpie (*Pica pica**)

Resident. Uncommon breeder.

Western Jackdaw (*Coloeus monedula**)

Resident. Nests on buildings around the lake.

Rook (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Fairly common to common during autumn wanderings with max. count of 150 in November 2002 and winter visitor, with max. 110 ind. in January 1994.

Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix**)

Resident. Breeds on trees around the lake.

Northern Raven (*Corvus corax*)

Rare visitor. Recorded three times: 2 ind. on October 12th 2003; 2 ind. on April 4th 2022 and 1 ind. on May 23rd 2023.

Tits – PARIDAE

Coal Tit (*Parus ater*)

Recorded once: 3 ind. on November 13th 2002.

Eurasian Blue Tit (*Cyanistes caeruleus*)

Scarce to uncommon spring and autumn migrant with max. 13 ind. on September 29th 2001. Uncommon winter visitor.

Great Tit (*Parus major**)

Scarce to uncommon migrant and winter visitor. Scarce breeder.

Penduline Tits – REMIZIDAE

Eurasian Penduline Tit (*Remiz pendulinus**)

Scarce spring to uncommon autumn migrant with peak of 20 ind. on September 17th 2022 (J. Vanryckeghem, observation.org), 14 ind. on September 8th 2007 and 10 ind. on September 21st 2013 (Scanbird report).

Bearded Reedling – PANURIDAE

Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus**)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant with max. 17 ind. on November 18th 2010. Uncommon to fairly common winter visitor. Scarce to uncommon breeder. 3 ind. on May 5th 2022 (J. Butters, eBird.org).

Larks – ALAUDIDAE

Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)

Rare. One record of 25 ind. on November 14th 2002.

Eurasian Skylark (*Alauda arvensis**)

Resident. Scarce breeder.

Crested Lark (*Galerida cristata**)

Resident. Highest site count of 54 ind. on December 21st 2012. Scarce breeder.

Greater Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*)

Rare. 3 ind. ringed in the period April 16-17th 2001. One ind. observed on September 21st 2001 and one observed on April 30th 2019 (Ø. Hegge, eBird.org).

Calandra Lark (*Melanocorypha calandra*)

Very rare. Recorded a few times: 30 ind. on December 13th 2000; 10 ind. on November 14th 2002; 100 ind. on September 22nd 2011 (M. Ulman, Avifauna Report). Recorded during breeding period at Pomorie Lake (Harrison, 1933).

Swallows & Martins – HIRUNDINIDAE

Sand Martin (*Riparia riparia*)

Uncommon spring (max. 40 ind. on April 26th 1996) and common autumn migrant: max. 1,500 ind. on September 4th 2002 (Gradev, 2003).

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica**)

Common spring (max. 6,000 ind. on May 3rd 1984) and autumn (more than 5,000 ind. on September 18th 2000). Regular breeder on buildings around the lake.

Common House Martin (*Delichon urbicum**)

Fairly common to common spring and common autumn migrant, with several thousand ind. Scarce to uncommon breeder (with 50 nests on buildings around the lake).

Red-rumped Swallow (*Cecropis daurica**)

Uncommon spring migrant with peak of 80 ind. on April 24th 2014. Scarce to uncommon breeder at buildings around the lake.

Cettia Bush Warblers – CETTIIDAE

Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti**)

Uncommon resident and breeder. 7 ind. ringed in the period September 8th-9th 2007.

Leaf Warblers – PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

Scarce spring migrant – 2 ind. on May 11th 2011 (B. Small, Limosa Report).

Eastern Bonelli's Warbler (*Phylloscopus orientalis*)

Scarce spring migrant – 1 ind. on May 11th 2011 (B. Small, Limosa Report).

Willow Warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Uncommon to fairly common spring and autumn migrant, with max. 32 ind. in September 2007.

Chiffchaff (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Uncommon to fairly common migrant. Max. 156 ind. caught in mist nets in September 2004.

Reed Warblers – ACROCEPHALIDAE

Great Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus arundinaceus**)

Uncommon spring (max. 49 ind. in April 2007) and autumn (max. 80 ind. in September 2007) migrant. Uncommon breeder.

Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*)

Rare migrant. Observed few times: 1 ind. on April 16th 1989; 1 ind. on April 16th 1996; 1 ind. ringed on September 24th 2020 and 3 ind. observed on March 26th 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Aquatic Warbler (*Acrocephalus paludicola*)

Rare migrant, observed just once: 4 ind. in September 1989.

Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus**)

Uncommon spring, with max. 2 ind. in April 2007 and autumn migrant, with max. 32 ind. caught in mist nets in September 2007.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus**)

Uncommon to fairly common migrant, with max. spring: 23 ind. in April 2007 and max. autumn: 173 ind. in September 2007 caught in mist nets. Uncommon breeder.

Marsh Warbler (*Acrocephalus palustris**)

Scarce to uncommon migrant (max. 76 caught in mist nets in September 2007) and breeder.

Eastern Olivaceous Warbler (*Iduna pallida**)

Scarce to uncommon migrant and breeder.

Olive-tree Warbler (*Hippolais olivetorum*)

Rare migrant. Observed once: 2 ind. in August 2007.

Icterine Warbler (*Hippolais icterina*)

Scarce migrant. One ind. on September 10th 2009 and one ind. on May 11th 2011.

Grassbirds – LOCUSTELLIDAE

River Warbler (*Locustella fluviatilis*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant. 7 ind. ringed during autumn migration in the period 2005-2007. One ind. seen on May 12th 2008 (A. Smith, Naturetrek report) and 2 singing ind. heard on May 11th 2010.

Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides**)

Uncommon migrant and breeder. Max. 19 on April 25th 2007; latest autumn record: one ind. on October 3th 1989.

Cisticolas – CISTICOLIDAE

Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*)

Very rare autumn migrant. Only three records: 2 ind. on September 15th 2013 (Scanbird report), 1 ind. on September 19th 2004 and September 18th 2021 (L. van Muijden, observation.org).

Sylviid Babblers – SYLVIIDAE

Eurasian Blackcap (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Scarce migrant (max. 4 ind. on October 3rd 2002).

Garden Warbler (*Sylvia borin*)

Very rare migrant. One ind. caught in mist nets on September 5th 2003 and one ind. found dead on September 30th 2021 (P. de Cnodder, observation.org).

Barred Warbler (*Curruca nisoria*)

Scarce migrant. One ind. on September 16th 1999.

Lesser Whitethroat (*Curruca curruca*)

Scarce migrant. Max. 1 ind. on Apr 21st 1992, max. autumn: 8 on October 8th 2002.

Eastern Orphean Warbler (*Curruca crassirostris*)

Scarce migrant. Four ind. caught in mist nets in September 2007.

Common Whitethroat (*Curruca communis**)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant. Scarce breeder.

Goldcrests, Kinglets – REGULIDAE**Common Firecrest** (*Regulus ignicapilla*)

Very rare. 1 ind. on April 13th 1993 and 1 ind. on April 8th 2022 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Goldcrest (*Regulus regulus*)

Very rare. 3 ind. on April 13th 1993; one ind. on October 9th 2002 and 2 ind. on November 23rd 2020 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Wrens – TROGLODYTIDAE**Eurasian Wren** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Scarce to uncommon in spring and autumn (from October to April) with max. 9 ind. on October 29th 2007. Uncommon winter visitor.

Starlings – STURNIDAE**Rosy Starling** (*Pastor roseus*)

Max. recorded is 22 ind. on August 17th 2002. Also observed in May 2021: 17 ind. (A. Alexieva, eBird.org) and in 2023: 1 ind. (I. Raykov & G. Bachvarov, eBird.org).

Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris**)

Resident. Irruptive in winter, with max. 200,000 ind. recorded on February 5th 2008 (S. Gigov, eBird.org). Scarce breeder.

Thrushes – TURDIDAE**Song Thrush** (*Turdus philomelos*)

Uncommon migrant. Max. spring: 6 ind. on April 4th 2007 and max. autumn: 25 ind. on September 29th 2015.

Mistle Thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*)

Rare migrant with just one record of single ind. on April 4th 2007.

Redwing (*Turdus iliacus*)

Rare migrant with just one ind. recorded on November 23rd 2020 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Common Blackbird (*Turdus merula)**

Scarce to uncommon winter visitor. 3-5 pairs nest at the site. Max. observed number is 48 ind. on March 20th 2012.

Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*)

Rare species with just few records: 5 ind. on April 13th 1993 and 21 ind. on September 29th 2017 (L. & C. Dhoore, observation.org); 3 ind. on January 20th (J. Muraveev, eBird.org) and 1 ind. on February 8th 2019 (D. Vasapolli, eBird.org).

Ring Ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*)

Recorded once: one ind. on October 18th 2019 (J. Pedersen, eBird.org).

Chats, Old World Flycatchers – MUSCICAPIDAE

Spotted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*)

Scarce to uncommon migrant. In spring max. 3 ind. on May 11th 2022 (B. Small, eBird.org). In autumn max. 2 ind. on September 18th 2000; on October 8th 2002 and on September 14th 2022 (J.-S. Rousseau-Piot, observation.org).

European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant with max. 10 ind. on October 27th 2020 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org). Rare winter visitor.

**Bluethroat (*Luscinia svecica*)**

Rare spring and autumn migrant with max. 2 ind. on April 16th 2020 (Y. Dobrev, eBird.org) and single ind. on September 14th 1988 and October 11th 2022.

Thrush Nightingale (*Luscinia luscinia*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant. 25 ind. were ringed in September 2007.

Common Nightingale

(*Luscinia megarhynchos**)

Uncommon migrant and breeder.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)

Scarce to uncommon migrant. More often in autumn with most records in September but max. of 15 ind. observed on October 3rd 2002.

Collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*)

Scarce to uncommon spring and scarce autumn migrant (max. 4 ind. in May 1999).

Black Redstart (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

Scarce spring (max. 6 ind. on March 13th 2015) and autumn migrant: max. 9 ind. on October 27th 2020 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Common Redstart (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

Scarce spring (max. 1 ind. on May 3rd 1984) and autumn migrant (max. 5 ind. on Oct 3rd 2002).

Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)

Scarce to uncommon spring (max. 1 ind. on April 16th 1995) and autumn migrant: 27 ind. ringed in September 2007.

European Stonechat (*Saxicola rubicola*)

Scarce to uncommon spring and autumn migrant, with max. 6 ind. on October 19th 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola maurus*)

Rare migrant with only two records: 2 ind. on October 11th 2021 (Y. Vassilev, BUNARCO.ORG) and 1 ind. on October 19th 2021 (N. Kolev, observation.org).

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe**)

Scarce to uncommon migrant and breeder.

Isabelline Wheatear (*Oenanthe isabellina*)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant. Single ind. observed in the period May-September.

Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*)

Rare species for the area. 1 juv. observed on October 15th 2000.

Eastern Black-eared Wheatear (*Oenanthe melanoleuca*)

Rare migrant with only one record of single ind. on September 18th 2006 (J-L. Carlo, eBird.org)

Old World Sparrows – PASSERIDAE**Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus**)

Resident. Scarce breeder. Max. site count of 50 ind. on April 14th 2022 (Y. Dobrev, eBird.org).

Spanish Sparrow (*Passer hispaniolensis**)

Fairly common spring and uncommon autumn migrant. Uncommon breeder (28 nests recorded in northwestern part of lake in 2007).

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus**)

Resident. Fairly common breeder.

Accentors – PRUNELLIDAE**Dunnock** (*Prunella modularis*)

Rare with just two records: 2 ind. on November 29th 2002 and 2 ind. on October 27th 2020 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Wagtails, Pipits – MOTACILLIDAE

Western Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla flava**)

Fairly common to common migrant and scarce to uncommon breeder (2 pairs found in April 1992). Birds breeding at the site are of race feldegg, often referred as "Black-headed Wagtail", but other races often occur on migration as well. Max. counts: 800 ind. in August 1989 and 752 ind. ringed in September 2007.

Citrine Wagtail (*Motacilla citreola*)

Very rare just a few records of single ind.: on May 2nd 2007; on May 18th 2007 (S. Gigov, Za Ptitsite 2/2007); on May 9th 2012 (E. Kwater, eBird.org); on September 20th 2020 (J. Szabo, observation.org) and on May 21st and 22nd 2023 (B. Kjemmemyr, eBird.org).

Grey Wagtail (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Scarce migrant and winter visitor: max. 4 ind. on September 29th 2001 and 2 ind. on January 10th 2021 (W. Faveyts, observation.org).

Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*)

Fairly common spring (with max. 341 ind. on March 20th 2012) and autumn migrant (max. 1000 ind. in September 2006). Scarce winter visitors.

Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*)

Scarce spring (3 ind. on May 18th 1990 and 1 ind. on April 21st 1992) and autumn migrant: 5 ind. on September 17th 2016 (R. Theuws, observation.org).

Meadow Pipit (*Anthus pratensis*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant: max. 5 ind. on March 16th 2002 and 10 ind. on November 20th 2021 (N. Kolev, observation.org). Fairly uncommon winter visitor: 17 ind. on February 22nd 2008.

Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)

Rare autumn and winter visitor with max. 2 ind. on October 8th 2022 (M. Southcott, eBird.org) and 4 ind. on January 30th 2015.

Red-throated Pipit (*Anthus cervinus*)

Rare spring and autumn migrant with max. 3 ind. on April 13th 1993 and 3 ind. on September 21st 2020 and 2 ind. on September 23rd 2018 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org).

Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*)

Scarce spring (max. 15 ind. on March 14th 2007) and autumn migrant (max. 11 ind. on November 8th 2007) and 9 ind. on November 20th 2021 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org); uncommon winter visitor.

Finches – FRINGILLIDAE

Common Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Rare species for the area of the lake. Max. count: 1,617 ind. on March 19th 2012.

Brambling (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Rare migratory species. Max. count for the site: 4 on November 14th 2002.

Hawfinch (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant. Uncommon winter visitor with max. 45 ind. on January 12th 2010.

European Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris**)

Scarce spring and uncommon autumn migrant with max. site count of 1,000 ind. on January 6th 2021 (I. Dimchev, eBird.org).

Common Linnet (*Linaria cannabina*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant with max. 30 ind. in November 2002. Uncommon winter visitor with peak of 40 ind. on January 4th 2020 (S. Peev, eBird.org).

European Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis**)

Uncommon spring and fairly common autumn migrant with max. count of 100 ind. on May 14th 2022 (Y. Dobrev, eBird.org). Fairly common winter visitor.

European Serin (*Serinus serinus*)

Uncommon autumn and winter visitor: 1 ind. on November 14th 2002 and 20 ind. on December 11th 2012.

Eurasian Siskin (*Spinus spinus*)

Uncommon spring and autumn migrant with max. 15 ind. on November 14th 2002. Uncommon to fairly common winter visitor with max. 78 ind. on January 20th 1994.

Longspurs, Snow Buntings – CALCARIIDAE

Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Uncommon winter visitor. Recorded several times: 7 ind. on January 26th 1991; 3 male and 1 female on November 29th 2003; 3 ind. on January 29th 2018 and 14 ind. on November 20th 2021 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org).



Buntings – EMBERIZIDAE

Corn Bunting (*Emberiza calandra**)

Resident. Uncommon spring and autumn migrant with max. 35 ind. on September 12th 2002
Uncommon winter visitor with max. 43 ind. on January 31st 2014. Scarce breeder.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Rare with just few records: 3 ind. on January 20th 2019 (J. Muraveev, eBird.org) and 10 ind. on January 4th 2020 (S. Peev, eBird.org).

Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*)

Rare. Recorded once in spring with max. 3 singing ind. on May 2nd 2007.

Cirl Bunting (*Emberiza cirlus*)

Rare. Recorded twice in spring with max. 2 singing ind. on June 2nd 1999. Rare winter visitor: max. 3 ind. on January 26th 2021 (L. Mannzen, eBird.org).

Black-headed Bunting (*Emberiza melanocephala**)

Scarce spring and autumn migrant. Scarce breeder in the vineyards with max. 3 breeding pairs.

Common Reed Bunting (*Emberiza schoeniclus**)

Resident. Fairly common autumn (max. 50 ind. on September 12th 2002) and winter visitor: 50 ind. on February 7th 2008 (S. Gigov, eBird.org). Scarce breeder.

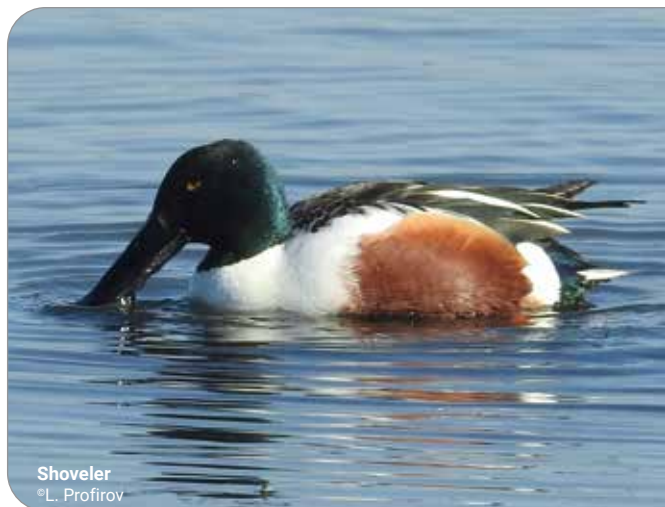
REFERENCES

- BirdLife International/European Bird Census Council.** 2000. *European Bird Populations: estimates and trends*. Cambridge, U.K.: BirdLife International (BirdLife Conservation Series no.10).
- Boev, N.** 1962. Data on the Summer Distribution of some Bird Species in Bulgaria. Coll. of Zool. Inst. with Museum, 11: 31-46 (in Bulg. with Engl. summ.).
- Bulgarian National Rarities Committee (BUNARCO).** Ivanov, B., P. Iankov, Z. Boev, D. Georgiev, L. Profirov, M. Dimitrov. 2009. List of the Birds Recorded in Bulgaria. *Acta zool.bulg.*, 61 (1):3-26
- Bulgarian National Rarities Committee (BUNARCO).** Ivanov, B., P. Iankov, Z. Boev, D. Georgiev, L. Profirov, M. Dimitrov. 2014. List of the Birds Recorded in Bulgaria.
- Bulgarian National Rarities Committee (BUNARCO).** Ivanov, B., P. Iankov, L. Profirov, D. Georgiev, M. Dimitrov. 2020. Report No.1.
- Chernichko, I. & V. Kostyushin (Eds.).** 2003. *Strategy for Waterbird Monitoring in the Black Sea Region*. Wetlands International, Kyiv: 23 pp.
- Dalakchieva, S.** 2004. Breeding biology of waders, order Charadriiformes (families Haematopodidae, Recurvirostridae, Burhinidae, Glareolidae and Scolopacidae) nesting along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. Ph.D., Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria 2004, 294 pp.
- Dimitrov, M., T. Michev, L. Profirov, K. Nyagolov.** 2005. *Waterbirds of Bourgas Wetlands: Results and Evaluation of the Monthly Waterbirds Monitoring 1996-2002*. Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation and Publ. House Pensoft, Sofia, 160 pp.
- eBird.org**
- Gorman, G.** 1994. *Where to Watch Birds in Eastern Europe*. Hamlin Publ. House: 216 pp.
- Gradev G.** 2003. Species composition of avifauna of Pomorie Lake, conservation status and habitat restoration, Bachelor Thesis, Faculty of Plant Protection and Agro-ecology, Agricultural University, Plovdiv. (In Bulgarian).
- Grimmet, R. F. A., T. A. Stones.** 1989. *Important Bird Areas in Europe*. ICBP, Techn. publ. No 9, 888 pp.
- Groessler, K.** 1967. Faunistische Notizen von der Schwarzmeerkueste Bulgariens. *Larus*, 19: 212-234.
- Harrison, J., Patteff, P.** 1933. A Contribution to the Ornithology of Bulgaria. *The Ibis*, vol. 75, 4: 589-611.
- Ivanov, K., A. Sotirov, A. Rojdestvenski, D. Vodenicharov.** 1964. *The Lakes in Bulgaria*. Publ. Inst. Hidrol. Metereol., Sofia: 16: 242
- Johnson A., H. Hafner.** 1970. Winter Wildfowl Counts in South-East Europe and Western Turkey. *Wildfowl*, 21, 22-36.
- Koenigstedt, D., D. Robel.** 1982. Die Brutvogel der Salinen bei Burgas (VP Bulgarien) – eine vorläufige Mitteilungen. *Beitr. Vogelkd.*, Leipzig, 28, 4: 244-248.
- Koenigstedt, D., H. Langbehn.** 1986. Erstnachweis des Cistensangers (*Cisticola juncidis*) in Bulgarien. VEB Gustav Fischer Verlag, Jena, *Beitr. Vogelkde.* 32, 1: 13-16.
- Kostadinova, I., S. Dereliev.** 2001. Results from the Mid-Winter Counts of Waterbirds in Bulgaria for the Period 1997-2001. Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 3, Sofia, BSPB. 96 p. (In Bulgarian and English)
- Michev, T., L. Profirov.** 1986. Investigations of Autumn Migration of Non-soaring Birds over Bourgas Bay. In: *Proceedings of Intern. Symp.*, Srebarna, 8-12.10.1984, Sofia, BAS, 1985: 176-185.
- Michev, T., L. Profirov, I. Vatev, P. Simeonov.** 1987. Radar studies on the autumn migration of Pelicans, Storks, and Cranes along the Bulgarian Black Sea coast. In: *Recent Achievement of the Bulgarian Zoology*. S. BAS, 155-158.
- Michev, T., L. Profirov.** 1993. National Report for Bulgaria. In: Rose, Paul M. and Taylor, Val. *Western Palearctic & South West Asia Waterfowl Census 1993*. IWRB, Slimbridge, U.K., p. 11 -12.



- Michev, T. (ed.).** 1995. *National Action Plan for the Conservation of the Most Important Wetlands in Bulgaria*. Ministry of Environment, Sofia: 55 pp.
- Michev, T., L. Profirov.** 2003. *Midwinter Numbers of Waterbirds in Bulgaria (1977-2001). Results from 25 years of mid-winter count carried out at the most important Bulgarian Wetlands*. Publ. House Pensoft, Sofia, 160 pp.
- Michev, T., L. Profirov, K. Nyagolov, M. Dimitrov, R. Tzenova, Ch. Nikolov.** 2004. *The Bourgas Lakes – poster & maps*. Second edition. Bourgas Wetlands, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation, Bourgas.
- Michev, T., M. Stoyneva (eds.).** 2007. *Inventory of Bulgarian Wetlands and their Biodiversity*. Publ. House Elsi-M, Sofia, 362 pp.
- Mountfort, G., Ferguson-Lees, J.** 1961. Observations on the birds of Bulgaria. *Ibis*, 103a: 443-471.
- Mueller, H., W. Mueller, W. Schonborn.** 1975. Beobachtungen über den Limikolen Durchzug in der Salinen von Burgas (Bulgarien). *Beitr. Vogelkd., Leipzig*, 21, 351- 352.
- Nankinov, D.** 1978. Places for Concentrations of the Migrating Waterbirds along the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. (In Russ.). *Ornitologia*, 15: 36-41.
- Nankinov, D.** 1979. Observations on Slavonian grebe (*Podiceps auratus* L.), Red-necked phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus* L.) and Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus* L.) in Bulgaria. *Orn. Info. Bull.*, 5: 8-18.
- Nankinov, D.** 1981. An effort for ornithological assessment of biotopes along Black Sea coast (water birds – autumn period). *Orn. Info. Bull.*, 10: 33-49.
- Nankinov, D., A. Darakchiev.** 1984. Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis* Latham.) is again nesting along the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. *Scientific Papers of Plovdiv University "P. Hilendarski"*, 22, 1: 143-147.
- Nankinov, D.** 1989. The Status of Waders in Bulgaria. *Wader Study Group Bull., England*, 56: 16-25.
- Nankinov, D.** 1992. Checklist of Bird Species and Subspecies in Bulgaria. *Avocetta*, 16, 1-17
- Nankinov, D., S. Simeonov, T. Michev, B. Ivanov.** 1997. The Fauna of Bulgaria. 26. Aves. Part II. Publ. Houses "Marin Drinov" & Pensoft: 427 pp.
- Nankinov, D.** 1999. Concerning migration of waders (genus *Phalaropus*, Charadriiformes, Aves) in Bulgaria; *Bul. Mosc. Nat. Soc., Biology*, vol.104, 3: 18-21.
- Nikolov, H., S. Marin, A. Darakchiev.** 2000. *The Pygmy Cormorant in Bulgaria. Status of the Population. Action Plan*, Green Balkans, Plovdiv, 39 p.
- Observation.org**
- Popov, D., Meshkova, G.** 2021. "Birds of Pomorie Lake – baseline field survey report", LIFE19 NAT/BG/000804 LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON Technical report, 67 pages.
- Prange, H.,** 1988. Winterbeobachtungen an den Bulgarischen Swarzmeerkueste bei Pomorie. *Der Falke*, 2, 54-56
- Profirov, L., T. Michev, P. Yankov.** 1994. Bulgaria. In: Wilson, A. M., M. E. Moser. 1994. *Conservation of Black Sea Wetlands: Review and Preliminary Action Plan*. IWRB Publication 33, 76 pp.
- Profirov, L., K. Nyagolov, M. Dimitrov, Green Balkans.** 2002. A checklist of the Birds of Lake Pomoriysko. In: Michev, T. (ed.). 2002. *Draft Management Plan of Lake Pomoriysko*. Bourgas Wetlands Project, BSBP. 8.
- Profirov, L., T. Michev (Eds.).** 2003. Bulgaria. In: Marushevsky, G. *Directory of Azov-Black Sea Coastal Wetlands*, Kyiv: 16-45.
- Profirov, L., D. Kirov, K. Nyagolov, G. Gradev, G. Stoyanov, M. Dimitrov, T. Michev.** 2010. *The Birds of Pomorie Lake: Status and Check List*. First edition. Green Balkans, Plovdiv, 40 pp.
- Prostov, A.** 1964. Research on Ornithofauna of Bourgas Region. *Bull. Inst. Zool. Acad. Sci. Bulg.* 15: 5-68. (in Bulg. with German summary).
- Robel, D., D. Konigstedt, H. Muller.** 1978. Zur Kenntis der Avifauna Bulgariens. *Beitr. Vogelkde.*, 24, 4: 193-225.

- Robel, D., H. Willems.** 1984. *Fruhlingsnotizen von der Schwarzmeerkueste Bulgarien (8 bis 15 April, 1980).* Der Falke, 3: 88-93.
- Roberts, J.** 1978. *Observation on Migrant and Winter Wildfowl Population on the Bulgaria Black Sea coast.* I.W.R.B. Bull., 45: 19-27.
- Roberts, J.** 1980. *The Status of Charadriiformes in Bulgaria.* Bonn. Zool. Beitr., 1-2, 31: 38-57.
- Scott, D. A. & Rose, P. M.** 1996. *Atlas of Anatidae populations in Africa and Western Eurasia.* Wetlands International Publications No 41, Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands: 336 pp.
- Simeonov, P.** 1986. *Thalasseus sandvicensis (Lath.) – a nidificant species in Bulgaria.* Acta Zool. Bulg., 30, BAS, Sofia.
- Simeonov, S., T. Michev, D. Nankinov.** 1989. *Fauna of Bulgaria*, v. 20. Sofia, BAS: 350 pp.
- Vatev, I.** 1983. *Records of Some Comparatively Rare and New Bird Species of the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast.* Larus, 33-35: 93-97.
- Wetlands International.** 2006. *Waterbird Population Estimates – Fourth Edition.* Wetlands International, wgeningen, The Netherlands, 239 pp.
- Wilson, A. M., M. Moser.** 1994. *Conservation of Black Sea wetlands. A review and preliminary action plan.* IWRB, Techn. Publ. No 33.
- Yankov, P., I. Dimchev, M. Dimitrov.** 2007. *Pomorie Lake.* In: **Kostadinova, I., M. Gramatikov (eds.).** 2007. *Important Bird Areas in Bulgaria and Natura 2000.* Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 11, Sofia, BSPB, 639 p. (in Bulgarian and English).
- Yankov, P. (ed.).** 2007. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in Bulgaria.* Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds, Conservation Series, Book 10, Sofia, BSPB: 679.



Shoveler
©L. Profirov



Sanderling
©L. Profirov





Published within LIFE19 NAT/BG/000804 LIFE FOR POMORIE LAGOON project, co-financed by the LIFE financial instrument of the EU

