8th International Eurasian Ornithology Congress

May 19-21 | 2025

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași
Romania

www.ornithologylab.com/ieoc2025romania

ABSTRACTS

8th International Eurasian Ornithology Congress

19-21 May 2025, Iaşi, Romania

VIII. International Eurasian Ornithology Congress

19-21 May 2025, Iaşi, Romania

Abstract Book

Edited by:
Tamer ALBAYRAK, Giovanni FORCINA, Carmen GACHE, İlhami KİZİROĞLU

VIII. International Eurasian Ornithology Congress
is
hosted by Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi

Collaborated Institutions:

Honorary President

Dr. Liviu-George MAHA, Rector of "Al. I. Cuza" University of Iași
Dr. Bayram YILMAZ, Rector of Dokuz Eylül University

Symposium Chairman

Dr. İlhami KİZİROĞLU

Symposium Secretary

Dr. Tamer ALBAYRAK

Organizing Committee

Dr. Carmen GACHE (chairman)
Dr. Tamer ALBAYRAK
Dr. Cătălın TĂNASE
Dr. Corina FORĂSCU
Dr. Luminița BEJENARU
Dr. Ali ERDOĞAN

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE (in alphabetic order)

Dr. Ahmet KILIÇ (Turkey)
Dr. Alfonso Marzal REYNOLDS (Spain)
Dr. Ali ERDOĞAN (Turkey)
Dr. Bernd LEISLER (Germany)
Dr. Carmen GACHE (Romania)
Dr. Dieter Thomas TIETZE (Germany)
Dr. Daliborka STANKOVIC (Republic of Serbia)
Dr. Eberhard MEY (Germany)
Dr. Feldner Josef VILLACH (Germany)
Dr. Filios Triantaphyllos AKRIOTIS (Greece)
Dr. Franz BAIRLEIN (Germany)
Dr. Giovanni FORCINA (Spain)
Dr. Hans Christoph WINKLER (Austria)
Dr. Hans-Joachim FUNFSTUCK (Germany)
Dr. İlhami KİZİROĞLU (Turkey)
Dr. Jenny DUNN (UK)
Dr. Jochen MARTENS (Germany)
Dr. Leszek Jerzak (Poland)
Dr. Levent TURAN (Turkey)
Dr. Max KASPAREK (Germany)
Dr. Michael WINK (Germany)
Dr. Nils ANTHES (Germany)
Dr. Özlem ÖZMEN (Turkey)
Dr. Recep KARAKAŞ (Turkey)
Dr. Tamer ALBAYRAK (Turkey)
Dr. Wolfgang FIEDLER (Germany)

Contents

FINAL CATEGORY: PLENARY **7**

PLENARY_1: **WHAT IS A VULTURE? PHYLOGENY AND CHARACTER EVOLUTION** **8**
MICHAEL WINK 8
PLENARY_2: **NAVIGATION ECOLOGY IN THE BARN OWL (*TYTO ALBA*)** **9**
ALEXANDRE ROULIN 9

FINAL CATEGORY: BEHAVIOR **10**

ORAL_: **MALE AND FEMALE PARENTAL INVESTMENT IN THE WHISKERED TERN (*CHLIDONIAS HYBRIDA*)** **11**
MATEUSZ LEDWOŃ[1], GRZEGORZ NEUBAUER[2], ADAM FLIS[3], BARTŁOMIEJ KUSAL[1], HALSZKA ŁOŻYŃSKA[1], AGATA BANACH[1], FREDERICK ANGELIER[4], MARTA GOŁEK[5], NATHALIE KÜRTEN[6], NATALIIA ATAMAS[7], STANISŁAW BROŃSKI[8], JACEK BETLEJA[9] 11
ORAL_: **NESTING BEHAVIOUR AND BREEDING SUCCESS IN INDIAN ROBIN (*COPSHYCHUS FULICATUS*) IN SEMI-URBAN AREA OF HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS** **12**
GARIMA SINGH 12
POSTER_: **NESTING AT DIFFERENT HEIGHTS: MICRO- AND MACROHABITAT SELECTION FOR 9 BLACK STORK NESTS AT DIFFERENT SITES IN ROMANIA** **13**
CIOBOTĂ MIHAELA[1], CIOBOTĂ ANDREEA[1,2], MURARIU DUMITRU[3] 13
POSTER: **CEMETERIES AS GREEN AREAS OF ST. PETERSBURG: BIRD ASSEMBLAGES DURING WINTERING AND BREEDING SEASONS** **14**
EKATERINA A. SICHINAVA[1], VERA A. GVOZDKOVA[1], SERGEY A. PETROV[2], IVAN J. STARIKOV[2] 14

FINAL CATEGORY: CLIMATE CHANGE **15**

ORAL_: **WINTERING RAPTORS IN EASTERN EUROPE: INSIGHTS FROM A LARGE-SCALE MONITORING PROGRAM ON POPULATION TRENDS AND CLIMATE INFLUENCES** **16**
EMANUEL-STEFAN BALTAG[1], VITALIE AJDER[2], ALEXANDRU-MIHAI PINTILIOAIE[2], LAURA-ELENA TOPALA[1,3], LAURENTIU PETRENCU[4], CATALIN FUCIU[5], LUCIAN SFICA[6] 16
ORAL_: **THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TITS AND CHICKADEES (PARIDAE)** **17**
TIETZE, DIETER THOMAS; EMMEL, CELINE; OLDELAND, JENS 17

FINAL CATEGORY: COLLISION WITH OBSTACLES **18**

ORAL_: **WIND ENERGY FARMS IN TEMPERATE FORESTS: A BIRD CONSERVATION PERSPECTIVE** **19**
JANUSZ KLOSKOWSKI, ŁUKASZ DYLEWSKI, MARTA K. NOWAK, PIOTR TRYJANOWSKI 19
ORAL_: **ASSESS OF THE BIRDS COLLISION RISK ALONG THE SECTION BACĂU BYPASS OF THE HIGHWAY A7 (ROMANIA)** **20**
CARMEN GACHE* & ALINA-ELENA IGNAT 20

FINAL CATEGORY: CONSERVATION **21**

ORAL_: **BIRD EXTINCTIONS IN ROMANIA: WHERE, WHY AND WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO BRING THEM BACK** **22**
ANTONIO-MARIAN DONCEA[1], EMANUEL ȘTEFAN BALTAG[2] , GABRIEL BOGDAN CHIȘAMERA[3], SILVIU PETROVAN[4] 22
ORAL_: **DECLINING PRODUCTIVITY IN TWO WARBLER SPECIES AT CES SITE OVER A SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD** **23**
STANKOVIĆ D[1], RAJKOVIĆ D Z[1], RAKOVIĆ M[1], SZEKERS O[2], SKORIĆ S[1] 23
ORAL_: **BIRD-PLANT INTERACTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION** **24**
JACOB SOLOMON RAJU ALURI 24

ORAL_: **NEW WATER BIRD SPECIES IN CHIȘINĂU CITY, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA** **25**
VICTORIA NISTREANU, NATALIA SOCHIRCĂ, VICTOR SÎTNIC, ANATOLIE SAVIN, TEODOR GLAVAN-CARANGHEL, ALINA LARION 25
POSTER_: **AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN MICROHABITATS INFLUENCE THE PRESENCE OF BIRDS IN THE CONTEXT OF DROUGHT AND BANK DESTRUCTION** **26**
CONSTANTIN ION; ALEXANDRU IONUȚ CIUBOTARIU 26
POSTER_: **BIRD FAUNA AS BIOINDICATOR TO ASSESS THE CONSERVATION STATUS IN THE PERIMETER OF ROSPA0110 ROGOJEȘTI – BUCECEA RESERVOIRS (ROMANIA)** **27**
IOANA-GABRIELA FILIPIUC* & CARMEN GACHE 27
POSTER_: **INVASIVE BIRD SPECIES IN TURKEY AND WORLDWIDE** **28**
[1]İLHAMİ KİZİROĞLU* & [2]AHMET CAN** 28
POSTER_: **RAISING AWARENESS OF THE EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS ON BIRDS – A GLOBAL REVIEW** **29**
LAURA-ELENA TOPALĂ[1,2*], ROXANA STRUNGARU-JIJIE[3], ALEXANDRU-MIHAI PINTILIOAIE[4,5], DUMITRU MURARIU[6], EMANUEL-ȘTEFAN BALTAG[2] 29
POSTER_: **BETWEEN-YEAR NEST RE-OCCUPATION BY THE EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (*MEROPS APIASTER*)** **30**
IVANA NOVČIĆ[1], MILOS RADAKOVIĆ[1,2], MARKO RAKOVIĆ[3] 30

FINAL CATEGORY: ECOLOGY **31**

POSTER_: **TROPHIC ECOLOGY OF THE LONG-EARED OWL (ASIO OTUS) IN WEST HALKIDIKI REGION, NORTHERN GREECE** **32**
KARAGIANNI PENELOPE[1], HARALAMBOS ALIVIZATOS [2], KALPAKIS STAVROS[3], 32
POSTER_: **SEASONAL BIRD DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGY IN CIRIC VALLEY (IAȘI - ROMANIA)** **33**
MARIA-ALEXANDRA NECHIFOR[1,2*] & CARMEN GACHE[1] 33
POSTER_: **DIVERSITY OF BIRD FAUNA ON THE RESERVOIRS FROM THE LOWER SECTOR OF BISTRIȚA RIVER (ROMANIA)** **34**
MĂDĂLINA-ELENA ROȘU[1*], IOAN MARIȘ[2] & CARMEN GACHE[1] 34
POSTER_: **CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF BIRD FAUNA FROM THE ROSPA0156 IAZUL MARE-STĂUCENI-DRACȘANI (ROMANIA)** **35**
MAURA SILVIA NEAGU[1,2*], ANA-MARIA LUPU[2] & CARMEN GACHE[1] 35
POSTER_: **WINTERING LONG-TERM MONITORING OF THE BIRD FAUNA ON THE RESERVOIRS FROM MOUNTAIN BISTRIȚA RIVER (ROMANIA)** **36**
MARIA-MANUELA CIOBANU[1*], LIVIU OLARIU[2], ANDI ROMILĂ[3] & CARMEN GACHE[3] 36
POSTER_: **ASPECTS OF BIRD FAUNA'S DIVERSITY IN THE PERIMETER OF ROSPA0109 BELCEȘTI RESERVOIRS (ROMANIA)** **37**
MARIA IULIANA PÎRLICA* & CARMEN GACHE 37
POSTER_: **SEASONAL DYNAMICS AND DIVERSITY OF BIRD FAUNA IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN "ANASTASIE FĂTU" OF IAȘI** **38**
TONY-ALEXANDRA TICU* & CARMEN GACHE 38
POSTER_: **ASPECTS OF THE DIVERSITY OF THE BIRD FAUNA IN THE CONFLUENCE AREA OF SIRET AND MOLDOVA RIVERS (ROMANIA)** **39**
MATEI FLOREA[1], LIVIU OLARIU[2] & CARMEN GACHE[1] 39
POSTER_: **EXPLORING URBAN HARMONY - FACTORS SHAPING SONGBIRD DIVERSITY IN FOUR OF BUCHAREST'S PARKS** **40**
CIOBOTĂ ANDREEA[1,2], CIOBOTĂ MIHAELA[2], COBZARU IOANA[2], CHIȘAMERA GABRIEL BOGDAN[2], GAVRIL VIOREL DUMITRU[2], MURARIU DUMITRU[3] 40

FINAL CATEGORY: EVOLUTION, PHYLOGEOGRAPHY AND PHYLOGENY 41

ORAL: **PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* IN EURASIA 42**
IVAN J. STARIKOV[1], MICHAEL WINK[2] 42
ORAL_: **GENOMIC EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE JAVAN RED JUNGLEFOWL (*GALLUS GALLUS BANKIVA*) AS AN OVERLOOKED CASE OF HUMAN-DRIVEN SPECIES DIVERSIFICATION 43**
MENG YUE WU[1], QIAN TANG[1,2], YONG CHEE KEITA SIN[1], YAN MING TAN[3], GIOVANNI FORCINA[1,4], HEIN VAN GROUW[5], FRANK E. RHEINDT[1] 43
ORAL_: **INTRASPECIFIC HYBRIDIZATION AND GENETIC MONITORING OF CHUKAR PARTRIDGE, *ALECTORIS CHUKAR*, IN TURKEY 44**
TAMER ALBAYRAK[1] 44

FINAL CATEGORY: MIGRATION 45

ORAL_: **MOVEMENTS OF A PAIR OF THE CASPIAN GULL (*LARUS CACHINNANS*) DURING FIVE YEARS AS TRACKED BY A GPS/GSM LOGGER (INTERREX-RINGS) – PRELIMINARY DATA 46**
MATEUSZ LEDWOŃ[1], JACEK BETLEJA[2], MARCIN FABER[3] 46
ORAL_: **ARGOS SATELLITES TELEMETRY: A LONG STORY OF BIRD MIGRATION MONITORING 47**
SOPHIE BAUDEL 47
ORAL_: **MOVEMENT PATTERNS OF PALLAS'S GULLS (*LARUS ICHTHYAETUS*) IN THE DANUBE DELTA REVEALED BY GPS TRACKING 48**
IOANA COBZARU[1], RELU C. GIUCĂ[2], VIOREL D. GAVRIL[1], DORU S. DOBRE[1], EMANUEL BALTAG[3], RĂZVAN ZAHARIA[1], RAMONA A. BIVOLEANU[1], MIHAELA CIOBOTA[1], ANDREEA CIOBOTĂ[1], GABRIEL B. CHIŞAMERA[1] 48
ORAL_: **DIVERSITY OF SMALL WADERS IN THE PERIYAKULAM LAKE, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, TAMIL NADU, SOUTHERN INDIA. 49**
SIVANANTHAM MOHANRAJ[1,2], JEGANATHAN PANDIYAN[3] 49
POSTER_: **THE COST ACTION EUFLYNET (CA22117). JOINING FORCES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRANT LANDBIRDS 50**
[1]IVAN MAGGINI AND [2]EMANUEL BALTAG* 50

FINAL CATEGORY: PARASITOLOGY 51

ORAL_: **ECTOPARASITES INFESTING SCOPOLI'S SHEARWATER (*CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA*): PRELIMINARY DATA FROM THE STROFADES ISLANDS COLONY IN GREECE. 52**
KARAGIANNI PENELOPE[1], SARATSIS ANASTASIOS[2], PERODASKALAKI ANASTASIA3, XIROUCHAKIS STAVROS[3], KARRIS GEORGIOS[1] 52
POSTER_: **STOMACH ENDOPARASITES OF THE WOODCOCK (*SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA* LINNAEUS, 1758 (AVES - SCOLOPACIDAE) IN DJURDJURA NATIONAL PARK 53**
FAIZA MARNICHE[1,2,3,4], NADIA MERIBAI-BOUGHELIT[5] 53

FINAL CATEGORY: WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT 54

ORAL_: **ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC AND NATURAL HABITATS ON THE BREEDING SUCCESS OF WHITE STORKS (*CICONIA CICONIA*) IN EASTERN EUROPE 55**
VALENTIN MIHALESCU[1], LUCIAN FASOLA-MATASARU[2], EMANUEL-STEFAN BALTAG[3] 55
ORAL_: **GENETIC DIVERSITY OF WILD AND CAPTIVE BARBARY PARTRIDGE (*ALECTORIS BARBARA*) POPULATIONS FROM MOROCCO 56**
LAILA SABRATE[1], GIOVANNI FORCINA[2], SAÂD HANANE[3] AND ABDELLAH ICHEN[1] 56
ORAL_: **IMPROVING BIRD PROTECTION IN „PRUTUL DE JOS" RESERVE 57**

VIORICA PALADI[1], VICTORIA NISTREANU[2] 57

POSTER_: **ANALYSIS OF THE AVIFAUNA IN TWO GREEN AREAS OF CRAIOVA MUNICIPALITY SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT ANTHROPOGENIC MODIFICATIONS** **58**

[1]MIRELA SABINA RIDICHE, [2]CARMEN DANIELA BĂLESCU 58

POSTER_: **AVIFAUNA WITHIN THE MAIN CAMPUS OF IMAM MOHAMMAD IBN SAUD ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA** **59**

HASSAN RUDAYNI 59

POSTER_: **EVOLUTION OF THE GREY PARTRIDGE (*PERDIX PERDIX*) POPULATION IN THE CORBII MARI HUNTING FUND (DÂMBOVIȚA COUNTY)** **60**

SEBASTIAN PETRICĂ CONSTANTIN[1], MARIA DENISA CONETE[1,] 60

POSTER_: **WINTERING SWAN POPULATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: TRENDS, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSERVATION INSIGHTS** **61**

VITALIE AJDER[1,2,3*], SILVIA URSUL[2], MIHAIL GHILAN[2,4], EMANUEL ȘTEFAN BALTAG[5] 61

FINAL CATEGORY: OTHERS **62**

ORAL_: **GEOPOLITICS AND HISTORICAL EVENTS: UNCOVERING THE DRIVERS OF THE GLOBAL AVIAN TRADE** **63**

LUÍS REINO[1,2,3], MIGUEL PORTO[1,2,3], JOANA RIBEIRO[1,2,3] 63

ORAL_: **GLYCOSAMINOGLYCANS FROM THE MATRIX OF THE BIRD EGGSHELLS** **64**

FALLEN KAI YIK TEOH[1,2], EMMA JURMAND[1], RICHARD HOLDAWAY[3,4], STANLEY AMBROSE[5], MATTHEW JAMES COLLINS[6,7], MADS FROST BERTELSON[8,9], VALENTINA FULVIA ISAJA[2], BEATRICE DEMARCHI[2], HENRIK CLAUSEN[1], REBECCA L. MILLER[1] 64

ORAL_: **WHEN SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING MEET FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL OUTREACH** **65**

CORINA FORĂSCU[1,2] 65

ORAL_: **ONE DECADE OF NEW AND RECONFIRMED BIRD SPECIES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA** **66**

MIHAIL GHILAN[1,2*], SILVIA URSUL[2], GHEORGHE ȚÎCU[2], ALEXANDRU ȚURCAN[2], VIORICA PALADI[3], VITALIE AJDER[2,4] 66

POSTER_: **SPATIO-TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOIL ARTHROPODS IN WHITE STORKS (*CICONIA CICONIA* L.,1758) NESTS IN EASTERN ALGERIA** **67**

LINDA BOUGUESSA- CHERIAK[1,2], SLIM BOUGUESSA[1,2] AND FAIZA MARNICHE[3] 67

AUTHOR INDEX **69**

Final category: Plenary

PLENARY_1: **WHAT IS A VULTURE? PHYLOGENY AND CHARACTER EVOLUTION**

Michael Wink

Heidelberg University, Germany; e-Mail: wink@uni-heidelberg.de

Formerly, all vultures (or at least the Old-World vultures) were assumed to be monophyletic. According to phylogenetic DNA analysis, the vulterine lifestyle evolved in three independent lineages among diurnal raptors (Cathartiformes and Accipitriformes). The three clades are: 1. New-World vultures, 2. Bearded, Egyptian and Palm-nut vultures and 3. Griffon and Cinereous vultures (and relatives) (Wink 1995). Whereas Cathartiformes are exclusively New-World species, the other two clades live in Africa and Eurasia. There are no vultures in Australia. Many of the morphological, biochemical and behavioral characters of vultures are adaptations to life as carrion consumers (del Hoyo et al. 1994). On a closer analysis, many differences can be seen between the three vulture lineages. Most vultures are scavengers, but some also take living animals (*Necrosyrtes monachus, Gypohierax angolensis, Sarcoramphus papa*). Bearded vultures have specialized on bones and Palm-nut vultures on fruits. Most vultures, which feed on carcasses, have naked skin on their head and necks, except Bearded, Egyptian and Palm-nut vultures. Most vultures find their food visually, only three species of New World vultures of the genus *Cathartes* detect carcasses by smell. Whereas nostrils are closed in most vultures, the three taxa have open nostrils, which can facilitate olfaction. Most vultures carry food in their crop, whereas Bearded, Egyptian and Palm-nut vultures mostly use their bills for transport. All Old-World vultures are active nest builders, but not the New World vultures. Only vultures of the genus *Gyps* are obligate colony breeders. All vultures of the *Gyps*/*Aegypius* clade lay a single egg; Bearded, Egyptian, Black and Turkey vultures often have two eggs, but only single young will fledge. The second young often dies through siblicide. Common traits in unrelated clades provide evidence for convergent evolution in vultures and specializations toward using special ecological niches. The study also clearly indicates that the three clades of vulture differ strongly in their biology and behavior.

--Del Hoyo J, Elliott A & Sargatal J 1994: Handbook of the Birds of the World. Vol. 2. New World Vultures to Guineafowl. Lynx Editions, Barcelona

--Wink M 1995: Phylogeny of Old and New World vultures (Aves: Accipitridae and Cathartidae) inferred from nucleotide sequences of the mitochondrial cytochrome b gene. Z. Naturforschung; Journal of Bioscience 50c: 868-882.

PLENARY_2: **NAVIGATION ECOLOGY IN THE BARN OWL (*TYTO ALBA*)**

Alexandre Roulin

University of Lausanne, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Building Biophore, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland; e-Mail: Alexandre.Roulin@unil.ch

The owl is a paradox. It is one of the most recognizable birds, yet one of the least understood (Demons Morris, 2009). In this presentation, I will share groundbreaking findings on the nocturnal behaviour of Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*). For years, we had little insight into what owls do at night. However, with the advent of GPS technology, we have been able to unlock the mysteries of their nocturnal lives. I will discuss how female barn owls search for a partner, their foraging patterns, the collaborative efforts of parents in raising their young, and their behaviour on moonlit nights. These technological advances have dramatically enhanced our understanding of the barn owl's night-time activities.

Final category: Behavior

ORAL_: MALE AND FEMALE PARENTAL INVESTMENT IN THE WHISKERED TERN (*CHLIDONIAS HYBRIDA)*

Mateusz Ledwoń[1], Grzegorz Neubauer[2], Adam Flis[3], Bartłomiej Kusal[1], Halszka Łożyńska[1], Agata Banach[1], Frederick Angelier[4], Marta Gołek[5], Nathalie Kürten[6], Nataliia Atamas[7], Stanisław Broński[8], Jacek Betleja[9]

[1]Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland; [2]Ornithological Station, Museum and Institute of Zoology, PAS, Poland; [3]Institute of Nature Conservation PAS, Kraków, Poland; [4]French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS); [5]University of Wrocław; [6]Institute of Avian Research, Germany; [7]Schmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NASU, Ukraine; [8]Tatra Mountain National Park; [9]Upper Silesian Museum, Bytom, Poland; e-Mail: Ledwon@isez.pan.krakow.pl

We studied breeding biology and parental investment of the Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) in Upper Vistula Valley (southern Poland). Our results indicate that females spent about 90% of their time on the nesting platform both during the pre-laying and egg-laying periods, while males searched for food and brought it to their partners. We also found that during courtship feedings females deceived alien males to obtain food from them without any cost. The rates of extra-pair paternity and intra-specific brood parasitism were low. Both parents incubated eggs and brood chicks, but males provided more food for chicks than females. Interestingly, almost all females deserted offspring and partner; half of them deserted during chicks-rearing period and the remnant during post-fledging period. Termination of parental care by females had no effect on fledging success. Baseline prolactin and corticosterone levels did not differ between males and females, while stress-induced prolactin level was higher in females than in males. After desertion, only ca 5% of females remate and renest. Females started their autumn migration earlier than males, which may be related to the earlier abandonment of parental care by females.

ORAL_: **NESTING BEHAVIOUR AND BREEDING SUCCESS IN INDIAN ROBIN (*COPSHYCHUS FULICATUS*) IN SEMI-URBAN AREA OF HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS**

GARIMA SINGH

Sardar Bhagwan Singh University, Dehradun, India

The Indian robin (*Copshychus fulicatus* L.) prefers fragmented, degraded and mixed forest patches with scattered settlements in semi-urban areas. The breeding behaviour and subsequent post-breeding dispersal was observed in 54 individuals inhabiting the Himalayan foothills of the Doon valley (Dehradun, India) from March 2021 to August 2023. The breeding season started by first fortnight of March with the onset of singing by territorial males. Nest building behaviour was observed for 11.31± 1.08 days, with both sexes participating also in the provision of parental caring. The nests, characterised by a shallow cup-shaped structure, were made up of thin twigs with fine inner lining . Four types of nests were observed based on morphological parameters and labelled as Type-I, Type-2, Type-3 and Type-4. Significant differences were observed among the nest types for all measured parameters ($p \leq 0.001$). Clutch size and number of broods were 3.34 ± 0.14 eggs and 2 to 4, respectively. Incubation was performed by only female individuals, with males guarding the nests meanwhile. The average incubation period was about 11.99 ± 0.26 days with hatching success 81 % and the young ones fledged in 13.09 ± 0.30 days.

POSTER_: NESTING AT DIFFERENT HEIGHTS: MICRO- AND MACROHABITAT SELECTION FOR 9 BLACK STORK NESTS AT DIFFERENT SITES IN ROMANIA

CİOBOTĂ Mihaela[1], CİOBOTĂ Andreea[1,2], MURARİU Dumitru[3]

[1]Department of Ecology, Taxonomy and Nature Conservation Department, Institute of Biology, Bucharest – Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania Doctoral School of Biology, University of Bucharest, Romania;
[2]Doctoral School of Biology, University of Bucharest, Romania;
[3]Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania;
E-mail: mihaela.ciobota@ibiol.ro

Adjusting conservation plans at different scales has become a pressing issue, especially in the case of forest-nesting, umbrella species, such as the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*), which is listed as Vulnerable in Romania. Current research for Black Stork multi-scale breeding habitat analysis highlighted the variable elevation as driver in the selection process. Within this framework, we compared at different scales, nine Black Stork nesting sites from 2 different areas of Romania (between 2018 and 2019 breeding seasons). Three nests were located alongside the Curvature Carpathians (medium altitude: 653.33 m) and 6 were distributed across a medium height of 80.66 m, inside the Comana Forest. Microhabitats were defined as circular plots around trees with Black Stork nests (15 m radius/plot). Several variables were analyzed at both scales. At macrohabitat level, nest site selection was mainly driven by factors such as distance to nearest urban settlement or distance to nearest road, regardless of altitude. The presence of water sources within 20 km range from the nest was another pressure factor, with nesting sites being significantly closer to wet areas at lower altitudes. Nesting tree-choice was similar across this altitudinal gradient, highlighting the importance of retaining old individuals of *Quercus* species in tree stands. Microhabitat analysis revealed significant differences in terms of stand structure (density, dominant species, with tree basal area also showing slight differences) between tree stands with nests located at higher altitudes versus the lowland ones. As such, we propose different management approaches, altitude dependent, when it comes to Black Stork conservation of nesting sites.

Study funding: project no. RO1567-IBB09/2025 Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy

POSTER: **CEMETERIES AS GREEN AREAS OF ST. PETERSBURG: BIRD ASSEMBLAGES DURING WINTERING AND BREEDING SEASONS**

Ekaterina A. Sichinava[1], Vera A. Gvozdkova[1], Sergey A. Petrov[2], Ivan J. Starikov[2]

[1]St. Petersburg State University, Russian Federation; [2]Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation; e-Mail: Ivan.Starikov@zin.ru

In this research we studied the avifauna of St. Petersburg cemeteries, which cover 40% of the urban territory, as part of a major ornithological survey of several types of green areas in this large city. A complete and detailed description of the avifauna inhabiting St. Petersburg cemeteries has not yet been carried out; they have not been analyzed as a separate type of green areas and recent research covers only a part of pertinent locations. This work includes 47 cemeteries of distinct size, age, and architecture within the administrative boundaries of the city. Bird counts were carried out four times during the wintering and breeding seasons in each location from the end of December 2023 till mid-July 2024 by the line transect method (Järvinen, Väisänen 1975, 1983) with participation of experienced volunteers. The avifauna of each cemetery was characterized in terms of species richness as well as ecological and phylogenetic diversity, changes in community composition and population density during the annual cycle have also been recorded. The total species diversity of all locations includes 43 and 51 species for the wintering and breeding season, respectively, with a considerable proportion of Passerines in both periods. The results also indicate a change in the main dominant species throughout the year: during the winter season, these are the Great Tit (*Parus major*), Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) and Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*), while during the breeding season they are the Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), the Eurasian Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), the Fieldfare (*Turdus pilaris*) and the Common Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

In future studies, the data from this work can be included in a comparative analysis within the framework of a more global ornithological study of St. Petersburg to identify correlations between the types of green areas and avian community composition.

Final category: Climate Change

ORAL_: WINTERING RAPTORS IN EASTERN EUROPE: INSIGHTS FROM A LARGE-SCALE MONITORING PROGRAM ON POPULATION TRENDS AND CLIMATE INFLUENCES

Emanuel-Stefan BALTAG[1], Vitalie AJDER[2], Alexandru-Mihai PINTILIOAIE[2], Laura-Elena TOPALA[1,3], Laurentiu PETRENCU[4], Catalin FUCIU[5], Lucian SFICA[6]

[1]Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; [2]Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Research on the Marine Environment and Marine Terrestrial Atmosphere, Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; [3]Faculty of Biology, University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania; [4]Freelancer Ornithologist, Tulcea, Romania; [5]Romanian Ornithological Society, Bucharest, Romania; [6]Department of Geography, Faculty of Geography and Geology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania; e-Mail: emanuel.baltag@uaic.ro

Birds of prey play a vital role in regulating ecosystem balance by controlling prey populations and serving as indicators of environmental health. Their movements, breeding and wintering strategies are closely linked to climatic conditions. However, the effects of weather patterns on raptor populations are poorly studied in Eastern Europe,.

To evaluate ecosystem quality in eastern Romania and the Republic of Moldova and to understand how raptors adapt to climate change, we initiated a wintering population monitoring program in 2010 and extended up to 2020, thus carrying out one of the largest ever wintering raptor monitoring programs using car transects in Europe. After a pandemic-related interruption, the program resumed in 2023, covering a broader region, including central Romania. Surveys were conducted in December and February, with each 40 km transect monitored at low speed by two observers recording species, distances and habitat types. This effort represents one of the most extensive winter raptor monitoring initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe. The highest raptor abundance was observed in Transylvania, where the Carpathian Mountains act as a barrier, concentrating species such as the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*). Elsewhere, abundance varied depending on habitat, elevation, and perch availability. Raptor numbers fluctuated throughout winter, peaking in December. These variations were strongly influenced by Arctic and North Atlantic Oscillations, which impact prey availability and habitat conditions. This study highlights the importance of long-term monitoring in understanding raptor ecology in response to climate change and ecosystem dynamics.

Funding: This work was supported by a grant of the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project number PN-IV-P2-2.1-TE-2023-0897, within PNCDI IV

ORAL_: **THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF TITS AND CHICKADEES (PARIDAE)**

Tietze, Dieter Thomas; Emmel, Celine; Oldeland, Jens

Hamburg University, Germany.

Climate change, mainly caused by human activities, has been observed since mid-20th century. Various kinds of impacts on birds have been reported including poleward and upward range shifts. Tits and chickadees (Paridae) are a well-studied family of passerines with restricted to transcontinental ranges in the Holarctic as well as tropical parts of Africa and Asia. We performed state-of-the-art climate-niche modeling for 55 parid species and projected the models under current and future climatic conditions, combining five global climate models and four shared socio-economic pathways. We calculated mean latitudinal distribution and area for all range projections and compared them to the current situation. We expected poleward shifts and range restrictions but also found deviating species. Thus, we searched for species traits that could explain the species-specific response to climate change.

Final category: Collision with obstacles

ORAL_: **WIND ENERGY FARMS IN TEMPERATE FORESTS: A BIRD CONSERVATION PERSPECTIVE**

Janusz Kloskowski, Łukasz Dylewski, Marta K. Nowak, Piotr Tryjanowski

Department of Zoology, Poznań University of Life Sciences, Wojska Polskiego 71C, 60-625 Poznań, Poland

Wind energy is a major alternative in the shift to renewable energy sources, but it can have negative impacts on wildlife, in a conflict often referred to as an example of a 'green–green dilemma'. Wind turbines are increasingly being built at forest sites, which has led to accumulating reports regarding avian and bat mortality, habitat deterioration, wildlife displacement, and behavioural alterations in response to wind energy development. Most research has focused on bats, while knowledge on the effects of wind farms on other forest wildlife, including birds, is still very limited. We summarize information on wind power effects from temperate forests. The impact of forest wind farms can be reduced in the first instance by adequate spatial planning. Wooded mountain ridges, edge habitats, migration corridors, and biodiverse forests are assumed to be locations of high risk for wildlife; hence, wind turbine planning should prioritize monoculture and degraded forests, optimally nested within a matrix of poor-quality habitat. The recent rapid development of preventive measures, especially flexible curtailment strategies, may significantly help to mitigate the conflict.

ORAL_: **ASSESS OF THE BIRDS COLLISION RISK ALONG THE SECTION BACĂU BYPASS OF THE HIGHWAY A7 (ROMANIA)**

Carmen GACHE* & Alina-Elena IGNAT

"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505

** E-mail: cgache@uaic.ro*

Our study presents the results of three years of monitoring activity on the bird fauna presence along the section Bacău bypass and two relation-roads towards Onești, respectively Piatra-Neamț as part of the Highway 7 (Moldova) and its surroundings in the eastern Romania. The investigated area intersects with the territory of the ROSPA0063 Buhuși-Bacău-Berești Reservoirs. We recorded 298 bird individuals killed through road collision along this highway, 283 individuals along the Bacău bypass, 9 along the relation-road towards Onești and 6 on that towards Piatra-Neamț. Between the identified 39 roadkill bird species, 5 species appear in the Annex 1 of the Birds' Directive and 2 in the Romanian Red Book of Vertebrates. We identify the seasonal presence and birds' behaviour during the annual biological cycle of birds, the mosaic of surrounding habitats, location and general infrastructural aspects of these three highway sections as main factors increasing the collision risks for the birds in the area. We notice the high number of bird roadkill during the breeding season and the period of preparation prior to the wintering time, the last one especially for the group of resident bird species. We found open-land, synanthrope and raptor bird species to be significantly affected. The section of Bacău bypass crosses the confluence area of Siret River with its tributary Bistrița, a territory presenting a mosaic of suitable habitats for various bird species. Moreover, the road level in this section is higher than the surrounding areas crossing with the flight high in take-off sequence of various bird species.

Final category: Conservation

ORAL_: **BIRD EXTINCTIONS IN ROMANIA: WHERE, WHY AND WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO BRING THEM BACK**

Antonio-Marian DONCEA[1], Emanuel Ștefan BALTAG[2] , Gabriel Bogdan CHIȘAMERA[3], Silviu PETROVAN[4]

[1]Faculty of Biology, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 700506 Iasi, Romania; [2]Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania ; [3]Institute of Biology Bucharest, Romanian Academy, 296 Splaiul Independenței, Bucharest, Romania; [4]Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ, UK; e-Mail: donceaantonio12@gmail.comdonceaantonio12@gmail.com

Romania—a well-known European biodiversity hotspot—has experienced the extinction of several bird species, primarily during the 20th century. These extinctions have meant the loss of important ecological, cultural and ecosystem functions, yet they remain insufficiently reviewed and under-discussed, both in scientific literature and public discourse, adding to the ongoing shifting baseline. To better understand the drivers underlying these local extinctions, we analysed the key factors contributing to the loss of 20 bird species from different ecological groups and discovered that some, such as vultures, disappeared even though the habitat was still intact. This analysis aims to extract lessons learned from their extinction, the reasons behind failures in their re-establishment and explore what it would take to restore viable populations of these species in Romania.

We compiled and analysed a database of extinct species using both published and grey literature. These species were grouped into four categories based on their habitat preferences: wetland birds, grassland/steppe birds, cliff-dwelling birds and generalist birds. To assess the feasibility of their restoration in Romania, we considered factors such as the status of regional populations and identified pathways to achieve this—whether through natural recolonization or active management interventions and reintroductions.

This analysis highlights the urgent need for increased research and proactive restoration efforts to halt the ongoing decline of bird populations and prevent future extinctions in the country. Additionally, it explores the potential and actions needed for restoring Romania's lost avian biodiversity heritage and underscores the broader implications of such efforts for ecosystem health and conservation.

ORAL_: **DECLINING PRODUCTIVITY IN TWO WARBLER SPECIES AT CES SITE OVER A SEVEN-YEAR PERIOD**

Stanković D[1], Rajković D Z[1], Raković M[1], Szekers O[2], Skorić S[1]

[1]University of Belgrade – Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, Kneza Višeslava 1, Belgrade, Serbia; [2] Riparia Association of Environmentalist, Matije Korvina 9, Subotica, Serbia; e-Mail: skoric@imsi.rs

The Constant Effort Site (CES) Scheme was established in the UK in the late 1960s and adopted by 15 other European countries in the mid-1980s. The method involves using standardised, identical mist-nets at the same locations and times, set at regular intervals throughout the breeding season. It allows the monitoring of various common breeding bird species to assess the abundance, productivity and survival of these populations. In Serbia, the CES Scheme was introduced in 2018 at a single site in a reed bed. Our data, collected over seven years, using standardised CES method, includes five reed-breeding bird species: Moustached Warbler (*Acrocephalus melanopogon*), Common Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), Sedge Warbler (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*), Bearded Reedling (*Panurus biarmicus*) and Savi's Warbler (*Locustella luscinioides*). The highest breeding success occurred in 2018, followed by a significant decrease in productivity in 2021. There is evidence of a decline in breeding adults between 2018 to 2021, possibly due to reduced adult survival in previous winters or during migration. Additionally, results indicate that two species —Common Reed Warbler and Sedge Warbler— produced fewer fledglings per breeding season, possibly due to adverse weather conditions (cold, rain) during the incubation period, repeated nesting or increased fledgling mortality. Additionally, research has shown that low water levels in early spring hinder reed regeneration, limiting the availability of young shoots that certain warbler species require for nesting, which may contribute to their delayed reproduction.

ORAL_: **BIRD-PLANT INTERACTIONS WITH REFERENCE TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION**

Jacob Solomon Raju Aluri

Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, India; e-Mail: solomonraju@gmail.com

The Eastern Ghats region, situated along the East Coast of India, falls under tropical monsoon climate and harbors rich floristic diversity. In this region, the flowers of several plant species serve as nectar resources for a variety of bird species, especially during dry season. The birds collect nectar legitimately during which pollination occurs. However, sunbirds rob nectar illegitimately also without affecting pollination; they seldom exhibit hovering mode instead of perching mode to collect nectar. The non-passerine birds pick up flowers and nectar part of the flowers.

Bird-flower interactions are mutualistic—the former for food and the latter for pollination—have been found in different life forms such as trees, woody climbers, woody shrubs, annual herbs and tree parasites. Passerine birds act as pollinators for *Bombax ceiba, Firmiana colorata, Erythrina suberosa, E. variegata, E. variegata, var. orientalis, Butea monosperma, Bauhinia variegata, Careya arborea, Alangium salviifolium, Gmelina arborea, Boswellia ovalifoliolata, Morinda tomensoa, Grewia orbiculata, Spathodea campanulata* (trees), *Butea superba* (woody climber), *Woodfordia floribunda, Helicteres isora, Anisomeles malabarica* (woody shrubs) and *Leonotis nepetifolia* (annual herb). Sunbirds use *Croton scabiosus* tree leaves as a source of insect diet during summer season. The Baya Weaverbird, (*Ploceus philippinus*) uses the fronds of IUCN Red-listed species (*Cycas sphaerica)* for nest construction and breeding during summer season. Therefore, birds are important pollinators of different plant species and, hence, it is crucial to protect all ornithophilous plant species to protect the dependent bird species, thus preserving the biodiversity of this region in perpetuity.

ORAL_: **NEW WATER BIRD SPECIES IN CHIȘINĂU CITY, REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Victoria NISTREANU, Natalia SOCHIRCĂ, Victor SÎTNIC, Anatolie SAVIN, Teodor GLAVAN-CARANGHEL, Alina LARION

Institute of Zoology, Moldova State University, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, vicnistreanu@gmail.com, victoria.nistreanu@sti.usm.md

The study of the Chisinau avifauna began in 2003 in various water basins of the city, such as the park lakes, and adjacent reservoirs Ghidighici and Danceni. Until 2018, the presence in different phenological periods of 22 aquatic bird species was registered. In the last 5 years, the study of bird fauna in the same ecosystems revealed the presence in summer period of 20 new for the city area species from the orders Anseriformes (fam. Anatidae), Suliformes (fam. Phalacrocoracidae), Pelecaniformes (fam. Ardeidae, Threskiornithidae) and Charadriiformes (fam. Scilopacidae, Recurvirostridae, Charadriidae, Laridae). The new species are *Spatula clypeata* (Danceni reservoir), *Aythya ferina* (Ghidighici reservoir), *Tadorna ferruginea* (Valea Morilor lake), *Phalacrocorax carbo* in both reservoirs, *Ardea alba* (Riscani lake, both reservoirs), *Egretta garzetta* and *Platalea leucorodia* in both reservoirs, *Plegadis falcinellus* (Ghidighici reservoir), *Recurvirostra avosetta* and *Himantopus himantopus* in Danceni reservoir, *Actitis hypoleucos* in Botanical Garden lakes and Danceni reservoir, *Limosa limosa*, *Tringa ochropus*, *Tringa nebularia*, *Tringa totanus*, *Calidris pugnax*, *Calidris alpina*, *Chlidonias niger* and *Chlidonias hybrida* in Danceni reservoir, *Vanellus vanellus* and *Sterna hirundo* in both reservoirs. Among these, 6 species are listed in IUCN Red List with various categories of rarity: *Aythya ferina*, *Limosa limosa*, *Tringa totanus*, *Calidris alpina*, *Calidris pugnax* and *Vanellus vanellus*. Thus, in summer period the water bird fauna of Chisinau city includes 43 species. Therefore, the urban habitats of Chisinau city provide favorable conditions for many water bird species, whicn contribute to the conservation of avifauna diversity in anthropogenic environment.

The study was performed within MSU subprogram 010701 and contract 01-23p-096/03-05-2024 financed by National Environmental Fund.

POSTER_: AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN MICROHABITATS INFLUENCE THE PRESENCE OF BIRDS IN THE CONTEXT OF DROUGHT AND BANK DESTRUCTION

Constantin ION; Alexandru Ionuț CIUBOTARIU

Biology Department, Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iași, Romania; E-mail: costinbio@gmail.com

European avifauna numbers are under constant decline concerning feeding habitats in constant shortage and levels of drought continuously increasing. Riparian habitats remain poorly documented regarding bird species composition and abundance despite their ecological importance. The current knowledge gap concerning the rate at which these habitats are becoming scarcer highlights the need for in-depth monitoring studies that concentrate not only on the species which depend on riparian zones but on the key types of impact which significantly affect their feeding and nesting habitats as riparian and waterfowl species. This study examines the avifauna of the Siret Basin between Paşcani and Stolniceni-Prăjescu, through seasonal surveys which were conducted between 2017 and 2018 using a transect method which ensured data collection in all the riparian and wetlands microhabitats identified. A GIS analysis was performed. A total of 81 bird species were identified out of the 394 present in Romania, with 51 breeding in the area. Marsh zones, along with open water and clay banks played a crucial role in sustaining not only riparian zone-dependent species but waterfowls as well ($p<0.05$). These results highlight the urgent need for continuous monitoring to assess long-term population trends and dynamics, habitat changes and the need for essential habitats. Hydrological and infrastructure projects which are under planning or in operation must align with wetland and bank conservation impact measures not only to protect bird populations but to mitigate or avoid microhabitats loss or alteration.

POSTER_: **BIRD FAUNA AS BIOINDICATOR TO ASSESS THE CONSERVATION STATUS IN THE PERIMETER OF ROSPA0110 ROGOJEȘTI – BUCECEA RESERVOIRS (ROMANIA)**

Ioana-Gabriela FILIPIUC* & Carmen GACHE

"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505

** e-Mail: ioana_filipiuc@yahoo.com*

The ROSPA0110 Rogojești – Bucecea Reservoirs, designated as a special protection area and part of Romanian Nature 2000 network, covers 2106 hectares along the upper Siret River. The main habitats include open water bodies, wetlands, flooding shrublands, grasslands, marshes, agricultural land and anthropogenic structures. Our study aims to gather data on the bird fauna from this area that serve as important stopovers and nesting sites for waterfowl due to the abundant wetland vegetation and diverse habitats. Initiated in March 2024 and continuing through February 2025, our monitoring activity tracks the bird fauna's dynamics during the migration, breeding, and wintering times. To assess bird diversity and dynamics during winter, we collected data during the International Waterbird Census in mid-January 2024 and 2025. We have identified 109 bird species, belonging to 40 families within 16 orders. We show quantitative data regarding bird fauna dynamics for both reservoirs during the migration, breeding, and wintering periods. Between the recorded species, 17 are listed in the Romanian Red Book of Vertebrates, 27 are protected under Annex 1 of the Birds' Directive, and 32 appear in the Annex 2. Four species are globally protected: *Aythya nyroca*, *Branta ruficollis*, *Microcarbo pygmaeus* and *Clanga clanga*, the last one being observed only in flight. We also examined the interactions between humans and birds, focusing on the impact of activities as agriculture and sport-fishing on bird populations and their habitats, exploring various strategies to minimize the negative effects and foster coexistence.

POSTER_: **INVASIVE BIRD SPECIES IN TURKEY AND WORLDWIDE**

[1]İlhami Kiziroğlu* & [2]Ahmet Can**

1Faculty of Engineering, Ostim Technic University, Ankara, Türkiye; 2Faculty of Engineering; İstanbul Rumeli University, İstanbul/Turkey; e-Mail: ikiziroglu@gmail.com

In the IUCN list, 97 bird species (36 passerines and 61 nonpasserines) are listed as Invasive worldwide. In the same list, the number of invasive bird species for Turkey is stated as 38 (25 NP group and 13 P group). However, mainly *Sturnus vulgaris, Alectoris chukar, Porphyrio porphyrio, Turdus merula, Pica pica, Cygnus olor, Anser anser, Anas platyrhynchos, Athene noctua, Tyto alba, Turdus philomelos* and *Corvus frugilegus* should now be considered as native or established species for Turkey.

Many old records for these species already exist. In addition, *Streptopelia decaocto*, *Alectoris chukar*, *Anas platyrhynchos*, *Porphyrio porphyrio*, *Columba livia*, *Pica pica*, *Sturnus vulgaris* and *Passer domesticus* are the most important species of Turkey's ornithofauna and occur in high numbers. These species are listed in the IUCN list as invasive bird species for the country and should be removed as such in that they have been part of Anatolian fauna for centuries. For example, *Streptopelia decaocta*, named Turkish dove, has been known in Anatolia since 1683, being imported during the Turkish occupation of Vienna. In other words, this species has existed — and continues to exist — in Anatolia for at least 400 years. It is a native species and should not appear in the IUCN List as invasive.

POSTER_: **RAISING AWARENESS OF THE EFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS ON BIRDS – A GLOBAL REVIEW**

Laura-Elena TOPALĂ[1,2*], Roxana STRUNGARU-JIJIE[3], Alexandru-Mihai PINTILIOAIE[4,5], Dumitru MURARIU[6], Emanuel-Ștefan BALTAG[2]

[1]University of Bucharest, Faculty of Biology, Splaiul Independentei 91-95, Bucharest, R-050095, Romania; [2]Marine Biological Research Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; [3]Research Center on Advanced Materials and Technologies, Department of Exact and Natural Sciences, Institute of Interdisciplinary Research, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Bd. Carol I, 700506 Iasi, Romania; [4]Doctoral School of Biology, Faculty of Biology, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, Carol I Avenue no. 20A, 700505 Iași, Romania; [5]Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Research on the Marine Environment and Marine Terrestrial Atmosphere, Al. I. Cuza University of Iasi, Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea Marine Biological Station, Nicolae Titulescu str. no. 163, Agigea, Constanța, Romania; 6Romanian Academy, Calea Victoriei no. 125, 010071 Bucharest, Romania; [7]Marine Biological Research Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; e-Mail: laura.topala94@gmail.com

We are aware that most of the items we use daily to simplify our tasks are made of plastic. However, it is important to recognize that global plastic production has increased by 230 times in the last 70 years. Additionally, we must consider the negative environmental effects of this material. It is crucial to remember that plastics degrade into small or micro-sized particles that inevitably enter the environment and can be ingested by various living organisms. This study examines the effects of microplastics on birds, including raptors, passerines, and waterfowl, by reviewing 44 peer-reviewed articles covering 130 species. Additionally, we aimed to contextualize these findings by linking them with key socioeconomic and environmental factors from the countries where the studies were conducted. We analyzed correlations between study results and various national statistics, including bird population sizes, GDP, research funding allocation, number of researchers, top-ranking universities, percentage of PhD holders, World Bank income classifications, plastic waste emissions, plastic production rates, number of plastic manufacturers, EPI recycling scores, and global single-use plastic waste generation. Our goal was to assess whether the volume of research is influenced by scientific capacity and funding or whether microplastic pollution studies align with regional plastic production and waste management. This approach provides insights into the relationship between environmental pressures and research efforts, highlighting potential gaps in global microplastic pollution studies on birds.

Funding: This work was supported by a grant from the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitization, CNCS - UEFISCDI, project number PN-IV-P2-2.1-TE-2023-0897, within PNCDI IV.

POSTER_: BETWEEN-YEAR NEST RE-OCCUPATION BY THE EUROPEAN BEE-EATER (*MEROPS APIASTER*)

Ivana Novčić[1], Milos Radaković[1,2], Marko Raković[3]

1. University of Belgrade – Faculty of Biology, Studentski trg 16, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

2. Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, Japanska 35, 11070 Belgrade, Serbia

3. University of Belgrade – Institute for Multidisciplinary Research, Kneza Višeslava 1, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

The European bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) is a cavity-nesting bird that digs its nests, usually in loess, clay, or sand cliffs, forming colonies that range from a few to several hundred breeding pairs. Due to the lack of nest sanitation, previous research suggested that bee-eaters obligatorily construct new breeding burrows each year. However, while bee-eaters are capable of excavating new nests annually, they may also reuse old burrows – a nesting behavior that has only recently been thoroughly documented. In this study, we investigated nest re-occupation by bee-eaters in a mixed colony of bee-eaters, common starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*), and common swifts (*Apus apus*) in Višnjička Kosa (44.8°N, 20.6°E), Belgrade, Serbia.

The study was conducted during the 2023 and 2024 breeding seasons in a colony situated within a 550-meter-long loess bank, created by previous clay excavation. To identify active nest holes, we recorded the colony using high-definition digital camcorders and examined selected nests with an endoscope camera. The recorded footage was reviewed multiple times on a computer screen to ensure data accuracy. Of the 138 burrows examined in 2024, 66 (48%) had been used in a previous breeding year, demonstrating a high level of nest re-occupation. Our results align with recent research from another colony, which showed that over 50% of nests can be reused by bee-eaters between breeding seasons. These findings suggest that nest reuse may be the rule rather than the exception in bee-eaters, as using existing burrows allows birds to save energy and time required for excavating new ones.

Final category: Ecology

POSTER_: **TROPHIC ECOLOGY OF THE LONG-EARED OWL (ASIO OTUS) IN WEST HALKIDIKI REGION, NORTHERN GREECE**

KARAGIANNI Penelope[1], Haralambos Alivizatos [2], KALPAKIS Stavros[3],

[1] Department of Environment, School of Environment, Ionian University, M. Minotou-Giannopoulou str. Panagoula, 29100, Zakynthos, Greece; [2] Zaliki Str. 115 24 Athens, Greece;

[3] Nea Triglia, 63079, Halkidiki, Greece;

E-mail: penelopekaragianni@hotmail.com

The Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) is a widespread nocturnal bird of prey and a relatively specialized rodent predator. It is mostly a winter visitor in Greece, which also hosts an impotant breeding population. The present study focuses on the trophic ecology of the Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*) in west Halkidiki, Northern Greece. The same area, a Mediterranean agroecosystem, was sampled at the end of the breeding season the months May-June, at two different time periods the years 2008-2010 and 2020-2021. The diet composition of the species was studied through pellet analysis (n = 1.031), which contained 1.552 prey items including a minimum of 11 mammal species, 15 bird species, 4 insect species, 1 amphibian species and 2 reptile species. Small mammals were the main prey, making up 85.1% of the diet by number and 87.8% by biomass, followed by birds 10.4% by number and 11.5% by biomass. The most important species at the diet of the Long-eared Owl were the Macedonian Mouse (*Mus macedonicus*) (34.7% by number and 25.4 by biomass) and the Sibling Vole (*Microtus rossiaemeridionalis*) (33.2% by number and 40.5% by biomass). The most important birds were sparrows (*Passer* spp.) (4.1% by number and 5% by biomass). Although there were significant prey differences from year to year, as well as between the two time periods, the Long-eared Owl proved to be an efficient rodent predator in the Mediterranean farmland ecosystems, which is in agreement with the literature.

POSTER_: **SEASONAL BIRD DIVERSITY AND ECOLOGY IN CIRIC VALLEY (IAȘI - ROMANIA)**

Maria-Alexandra NECHIFOR[1,2]* & Carmen GACHE[1]

[1]*"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iasi, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505;*

[2]*"Miron Costin" Theoretical High School Iași, Mușatini Street, no. 12, Iași, 700591, Romania;*

** E-mail: marianechifor240@gmail.com*

In the recent years, urbanization and human activities have significantly impacted global biodiversity, especially the bird fauna, by altering habitats and influencing the species distribution. The current study was conducted in an area of the Ciric River Valley (Iași, Romania) including five lakes (Dorobanț, Aroneanu, Ciric 1, Ciric 2, Veneția) and a forest (Ciric Forest) to assess the birds' diversity and breeding species throughout all seasons of the biological life cycle of birds: spring migration, breeding, autumn migration and wintering period. We led field observations using the transect and fixed-point methods three times per month from April 2022 to March 2023. We recorded species presence, abundance and aspects of breeding behaviour. We applied the Shannon and Simpson indices to establish the birds' diversity (species richness and distribution). A total of 96 bird species (42 families and 16 orders) were observed and documented. Among these, passerines were predominant in the forest, the aquatic, and wetland habitats inside the area. We identified 49 breeding species in the Ciric Forest and lakes, and 40 in Dorobanț-Aroneanu reservoirs. The birds' diversity peaked during the breeding season and was lowest in winter, which reflects clear seasonal variations. We conclude that urban expansion, habitat degradation, and human activities negatively affected bird populations. We observed several species with conservation statuses, their presence underscoring the ecological significance of the area.

POSTER_: DIVERSITY OF BIRD FAUNA ON THE RESERVOIRS FROM THE LOWER SECTOR OF BISTRIȚA RIVER (ROMANIA)

Mădălina-Elena ROȘU[1]*, Ioan MARIȘ[2] & Carmen GACHE[1]

[1]*"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505*

[2]*National Agency for the Protected Natural Areas – Bacău Territorial Service*

** E-mail: rosu.madalina11@yahoo.com*

Our study present new data regarding the bird fauna diversity in the perimeter of Gârleni, Lilieci and Bacău II reservoirs, located in the lower sector of Bistrița River. The last two areas have protection status as part of the ROSPA0063 Buhuși-Bacău-Berești Reservoirs, important stopover site during the bird migration and wintering time. Our monitoring activity covered one year (March 2024 - February 2025), and we have collected three sets of data in mid-January 2023 - 2025 (during the International Waterbird Census), for a better assessment of the diversity and dynamics of bird fauna in the wintering period. We identified 150 bird species and we present quantitative data regarding the bird presence on the all three reservoirs for the breeding season, migration period, and wintering time. We mention the unusual breeding presence of the *Aythya fuligula* (passage and winter visitor in Romania) in the perimeter of Lilieci reservoir. The investigated reservoirs represent hunting area for one breeding pair of *Haliaeetus albicilla* inside Gioseni Forest. These three reservoirs shelter thousands waterfowls, hundreds cormorants, grebes and gulls during the migration and wintering period. We recorded 21 species mentioned in the Romanian Red Book of Vertebrates; 30 species are protected through Annex 1 of the Birds` Directive, 44 appear in the Annex 2 of the Birds Directive, one species being present in the both. We also bring proofs to include the perimeter of Gârleni reservoir in the Natura 2000 Network in Romania as part of the ROSPA0063 Buhuși-Bacău-Berești Reservoirs.

POSTER_: CONTRIBUTION TO THE STUDY OF BIRD FAUNA FROM THE ROSPA0156 IAZUL MARE-STĂUCENI-DRACȘANI (ROMANIA)

Maura Silvia NEAGU[1,2]*, Ana-Maria LUPU[2] & Carmen GACHE[1]

[1]*"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505;*

[2]*National Agency for the Protected Natural Areas – Botoșani Territorial Service;*

** e-Mail: mauraneagu@gmail.com*

The present study was done on the territory of ROSPA0156 Iazul Mare - Stăuceni - Dracșani, located along the Sitna River valley in Botoșani County. This Nature 2000 site has not a management plan, and the existing ornithological data are old. Our one-year monitoring activity (March 2024 – February 2025) followed the bird fauna diversity in the perimeter of Dracșani reservoir (Sitna River) and the ponds on its tributaries: Iazul Mare, Starostea, Melic, Ghidu, Costești, Stăuceni (Morișca River) and Sulițoaia (Burla River). We identified 135 bird species belonging to 40 families. Among these, 35 species appear in the Annex I of the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), 14 being breeding species in the area (*Tadorna ferruginea*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Egretta garzetta*, *Ardea alba*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Circus aerunginosus*, *Falco vespertinus*, *Himantopus himantopus*, *Recurvirostra avosetta*, *Chlidonias hybrida* and *Lanius collurio*). We mention other two species (*Sterna hirundo* and *Alcedo atthis*) as probably nesting in this perimeter. We notice the presence of species, such as *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra* and *Clanga clanga* using the area as feeding territory and stopover point during migration. The bird fauna diversity recorded the highest-level during nesting season and the lowest one during the wintering period. We met 25 bird species mentioned in the *Romanian Red Book of Vertebrates*: 2 critically endangered species, 9 endangered species and 14 vulnerable species in our country. The climate changes, habitats loss and water supply represent the main risks for this Nature 2000 site.

POSTER_: WINTERING LONG-TERM MONITORING OF THE BIRD FAUNA ON THE RESERVOIRS FROM MOUNTAIN BISTRIȚA RIVER (ROMANIA)

Maria-Manuela CİOBANU[1]*, Liviu OLARİU[2], Andi ROMİLĂ[3] & Carmen GACHE[3]

[1]*National Environmental Guard – Neamț County*

[2]*National Agency for the Protected Natural Areas – Neamț Territorial Service;*

[3]*"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505;*

** e-Mail: maria10i77@yahoo.com*

We present results of a monitoring programme in the perimeter of three reservoirs located in the mountain sector of Bistrița River (Romania). We visited this area every mid-January starting from 2006 and collecting monthly wintering data for four years. The Pângărați, Vaduri, and Bâtca Doamnei reservoirs cover a surface of 456 hectares, being part of the Romanian Natura 2000 network as ROSPA0125 Vaduri and Pângărați Reservoirs, an important wintering ground for the waterfowl in the northern Romania. The aquatic birds appear in the late October, leaving the area during the middle March. We recorded 69 species of birds as wintering visitors of this area, including 35 species of aquatic birds. The ducks, swans and coots are the dominant species with populatios of hundreds to thousands individuals, but we observed a slight but constant decrease of population for some species, especially for the diving ducks. We notice the presence of all three swan species (*Cygnus olor*, *C. cygnus*, and *C. columbianus*), but the rare appearance of geese (*Anser* sp.). We mention as rare species in the area: *Tadorna tadorna*, *Aythya marila*, *Melanitta fusca*, *Mergus serrator* and *Gavia arctica*. We note the wintering irregular presence of *Bombycilla garrulus*, met in 2006, 2009 and 2024. During the 2009 winter, we recorded an ample migration of *Emberiza calandra*, counting about 1400 individuals. We mention the constant wintering presence of *Haliaeetus albicilla*, and the unusual wintering appearance of species as *Aythya nyroca*, *Ardea alba*, *Gallinago gallinago*, *Vanellus vanellus*, and *Erithacus rubecula*.

POSTER_: **ASPECTS OF BIRD FAUNA'S DIVERSITY IN THE PERIMETER OF ROSPA0109 BELCEȘTI RESERVOIRS (ROMANIA)**

Maria Iuliana PÎRLICA* & Carmen GACHE

"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iași, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505

** e-Mail: iulianapirlica10@gmail.com*

Our study presents data regarding the *diversity* of bird fauna from the territory of ROSPA0109 Belcești Reservoir, located in the north-eastern Romania and part of Nature 2000 national network. The protected area includes two reservoirs - Tansa (on the Bahlui River) and Plopi (on its tributary the Gurguiata River), respectively the chain of ponds Cicadaia, and the Huc fishery (on the Gurguiata River). The field monitoring activity began in March 2023 and continued until February 2024, with monthly field visits following to assess the aspects of bird fauna dynamic during a completely biological annual cycle. We identified 127 bird species, 59 being regular breeding species in the area and 7 species probably breeding species. We present quantitative data for the recorded bird fauna; the breeding population is small, while we counted significant population during the migration time, especially in autumn. The diversity of bird fauna remained almost constant throughout the year, with the highest level recorded during the autumn migration time, when we met 91 species. In the wintering time, we observed only 62 bird species. We identified 35 bird species listed in the Annex 1 of Birds Directive, as well as 21 bird species included in the Romanian Red Book of Vertebrates. We mention the appearance of five critically endangered species (*Anser erythropus*, *Tadorna ferruginea*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*, *Milvus migrans*, *Sternula albifrons*) in this territory. We identified the hunting activity and the water loss as the main risks for the bird fauna in the area.

POSTER_: SEASONAL DYNAMICS AND DIVERSITY OF BIRD FAUNA IN THE BOTANICAL GARDEN "ANASTASIE FĂTU" OF IAȘI

Tony-Alexandra TICU* & Carmen GACHE

"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iaşi, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505;

e-Mail: tonyalexandra.ticu@gmail.com

The study was conducted in the Botanical Garden "Anastasie Fătu" (Iași, Romania) from March 2023 to February 2024, exploring the seasonal dynamics and diversity of bird fauna in an urban green oasis. Using the standardized transect and fixed-point observation methods, we identified 81 bird species from 12 orders and 30 families, accounting for 16% of Romania's avifauna diversity. As dominant order, the Passeriformes represented 67% of the species, being followed by Piciformes and Accipitriformes. The habitat heterogeneity within the garden encompasses various ecological niches, including wetlands, forests and open areas, fostering significant avian diversity. The seasonal fluctuations in species composition and abundance were linked to migration, breeding season, wintering time and environmental changes. The feeding stations installed by the Romanian Ornithological Society (SOR/Birdlife Romania) and the seed supply between December 2023 and March 2024 improved the rate of winter survival, following the drought summer and autumn. Comparing with the previous studies (2004–2007), we noticed shifts in species composition due to habitat and climate changes, with some newly recorded species and others whose presence was not confirmed instead. This study underscores the importance of urban green spaces for avian diversity and ecological balance in cities as well as the crucial importance of adaptive management to mitigate the anthropogenic impacts and enhancing habitat quality. By emphasizing the role of botanical gardens as biodiversity hotspots and refuges for the birds, our study highlights their significance in conservation and ecological research.

POSTER_: **ASPECTS OF THE DIVERSITY OF THE BIRD FAUNA IN THE CONFLUENCE AREA OF SIRET AND MOLDOVA RIVERS (ROMANIA)**

Matei FLOREA[1], Liviu OLARİU[2] & Carmen GACHE[1]

[1]*"Al. I. Cuza" University from Iaşi, Romania, Av. Carol I, 11A, 700505;*

[2]*National Agency for the Protected Natural Areas – Neamț Territorial Service;*

e-Mail: floreamatei123@gmail.com

This study presents data regarding the avian diversity around the confluence area of Siret River with its tributary Moldova based on a field monitoring activity implemented during one annual biological cycle from March 2023 to February 2024. The investigated territory includes areas belonging to two Natura 2000 sites: ROSPA0072 Siret Middle Floodplain and ROSCI0364 Moldova River between Tupilați village and Roman city. The landscape is a mosaic of habitats as wetlands and water courses, woodlands and dry meadows. We observed 131 bird species representing 17 orders, for which we present quantitative data during the ecological seasons of birds in this perimeter. Among these, the passerines were dominants with 65 species from 24 families, while the other 40 species were aquatic birds mainly Anseriformes and Charadriiformes. We notice the presence of eight species of diurnal and one nocturnal raptor bird species. Twenty of the identified species appear in the Annex 1 of the Birds' Directive, and 12 in the Romanian Red Book of Vertebrates, including the Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) and the black-winged stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) as breeding species in the area.

POSTER_: **EXPLORING URBAN HARMONY - FACTORS SHAPING SONGBIRD DIVERSITY IN FOUR OF BUCHAREST'S PARKS**

CİOBOTĂ Andreea[1,2], CİOBOTĂ Mihaela[2], COBZARU Ioana[2], CHİŞAMERA Gabriel Bogdan[2], GAVRİL Viorel Dumitru[2], MURARİU Dumitru[3]

[1]Doctoral School of Biology, University of Bucharest, Romania;
[2]Department of Ecology, Taxonomy and Nature Conservation Department, Institute of Biology, Bucharest – Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania
3 Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania;

mailto:andreea.ciobota@ibiol.ro e-Mail: andreea.ciobota@ibiol.ro

With cities rapidly expanding into natural habitats, anthropogenic green spaces have the potential to develop into important hotspots for avian diversity, propelling urban parks to stopover candidates for migratory birds. Adopting a multi-species group approach, in the present study, we explored the main drivers that shape bird communities and affect songbird richness and distribution in four urban parks, in Bucharest, Romania. We evaluated these two parameters in relation to several environmental variables that could influence songbird community structure in city parks (including artificial night light, anthropogenic noise, habitat foraging opportunities, park design, microhabitat availability). In our four-year research (2018-2021), we found that merely a quarter of the observed songbird species are permanent urban dwellers, while the remaining species utilize urban parks as temporary stepping-stones during migration. Vegetation composition in urban parks links positively with certain bird species (for instance, hawthorn and mistletoe corelate with the presence of bullfinches, while conifers attract crossbills and siskins). Park size did not influence species richness, but light pollution and landscaping affected songbird community composition. Additionally, anthropogenic noise had a negative effect on the distribution of low-pitched songbirds in the four parks studied. Within this framework, we advocate that an integrative approach to park design could bridge the gap between rapid urban expansion and the pressing need for biodiversity conservation.

This study was funded by project no. RO1567-IBB09/2025 from the Institute of Biology Bucharest of the Romanian Academy.

Final category: Evolution, Phylogeography and Phylogeny

ORAL: PHYLOGEOGRAPHY OF THE LITTLE OWL *ATHENE NOCTUA* IN EURASIA

Ivan J. Starikov[1], Michael Wink[2]

1 – Zoological institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Saint Petersburg, Russia

2 – Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany

The taxonomy of the Little Owl, a Palearctic nocturnal raptor, has not been unequivocally resolved. Eight currently accepted subspecies were analyzed based with mitochondrial (*COI*, *Cyt b*) and nuclear (*RAG-1*, *LDH*) DNA sequence markers. A phylogeny of this taxon was inferred using Bayesian Inference, as well as Maximum Likelihood and Neighbor Joining methods. The Little Owl represents a species complex whose divergence started in the Pliocene. Most of the mitochondrial haplotypes are geographically well differentiated and can be related to existing subspecies or its groups. Three studied subspecies, the Western European *vidalii* and the Eastern *bactriana* and *plumipes* are genetically distant from all others subspecies and should be treated as proper distinct species. The Middle Eastern form *lilith,* on the contrary, does not have significant differences with neighboring subspecies and should be not considered as a separate species as previously suggested based on morphological and vocalization data. The origin of the genus *Athene*, its extinct and living forms is discussed. Current Little Owl populations probably expanded their range after the last glaciations.

ORAL_: GENOMIC EVIDENCE POINTS TO THE JAVAN RED JUNGLEFOWL (*GALLUS GALLUS BANKIVA*) AS AN OVERLOOKED CASE OF HUMAN-DRIVEN SPECIES DIVERSIFICATION

Meng Yue Wu[1], Qian Tang[1,2], Yong Chee Keita Sin[1], Yan Ming Tan[3], Giovanni Forcina[1,4], Hein van Grouw[5], Frank E. Rheindt[1]

[1]Department of Biological Sciences, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore; [2]Rowland Institute at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA; [3]Department of Statistics & Data Science, National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore; [4] Universidad de Alcalá, Departamento de Ciencias de la Vida, Global Change Ecology and Evolution Research Group (GloCEE)/Soil Biology and Subterranean Ecosystems Research Group (GIBSES), Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain; [5]Bird Group, Department of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum, Tring, Herts, UK; e-Mail: giovanni.forcina@uah.es

Human activities exert a tremendous impact on biodiversity, which is declining at an alarming rate because of land use change and overexploitation. However, there are a few cases where human impact not only did not deplete levels of differentiation in wild vertebrates but also increased them. This process, that occurred over surprisingly short evolutionary timescales, may well go unnoticed in the absence of supporting historical documentation and/or phenotype evidence. Nevertheless, the fast-growing use of genome-wide tools is opening unprecedented perspectives for unveiling neglected cases of human-mediated differentiation. As a case in point, we use whole genomes of modern and historical specimens collected ~110-150 years ago to show that the most distinct wild subspecies of Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*), the ancestral form of domestic chickens, is likely the result of a recent admixture with the green junglefowl (*G. varius)* on the island of Java. Gene flow analyses indicate that the large mixed contribution in the genomes of the Javan Red Junglefowl from its counterpart arose either by its natural arrival in the wake of human colonization or by the introduction of feral *G. gallus* into Java a few hundred years ago. This research shows how relevant the impact of human activities, whether by means of habitat change or feralization of domestic populations, can be on the evolutionary trajectory that is often of wild species and, at the same time, how often it can be wrongly attributed to long-standing natural differentiation.

ORAL_: **INTRASPECIFIC HYBRIDIZATION AND GENETIC MONITORING OF CHUKAR PARTRIDGE, *ALECTORIS CHUKAR*, IN TURKEY**

Tamer Albayrak[1]

1Department of Biology, Science Faculty, Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Turkey

The Chukar Partridge (*Alectoris chukar*, Galliformes) exhibits a broad natural distribution extending from the Balkans to Eastern Asia. Previous studies have revealed that the species comprises two primary genetic lineages: an eastern and a western clade. To support natural populations and ensure the sustainability of hunting practices, Chukar Partridges are bred in game farms and released into the wild. In order to investigate the intraspecific genetic structure, phylogeographic patterns, and potential admixture events within A. chukar populations in Turkey, individuals from fourteen wild and five captive populations were genotyped at two mitochondrial and ten microsatellite DNA loci. To assess the effects of potential hybridization, both wild and farm-reared individuals were analyzed together. The results indicated that the majority of captive individuals (85%) belonged to the eastern clade and were genetically distinct from wild populations. Moreover, evidence of intraspecific hybridization between wild and captive populations was detected. This phenomenon promotes extensive genetic introgression and homogenization, highlighting the necessity of ongoing genetic monitoring to safeguard the species' genetic integrity. A newly initiated project aims to monitor temporal genetic changes in regional populations to better understand the dynamics of genetic variation over time.

Final category: Migration

ORAL_: MOVEMENTS OF A PAIR OF THE CASPIAN GULL (*LARUS CACHINNANS*) DURING FIVE YEARS AS TRACKED BY A GPS/GSM LOGGER (INTERREX-RINGS) – PRELIMINARY DATA

Mateusz Ledwoń[1], Jacek Betleja[2], Marcin Faber[3]

[1]Institute of Systematics and Evolution of Animals, Polish Academy of Sciences, Sławkowska 17, 31-016 Kraków, Poland[2]Upper Silesian Museum, Department of Natural History, Plac Jana III Sobieskiego 2, 41-902 Bytom, Poland, betleja@muzeum.bytom.pl; [3]INTERREX-RINGS, Ogrody Romanów 7, 91-174 Łodz, Poland;mailto:telemetry@interrex.ple-Mail: Ledwon@isez.pan.krakow.pl; telemetry@interrex.pl

The Caspian Gull (*Larus cachinnans)* is a socially monogamous species in which both partners make a large investment in parental care. One adult female (Alice) and her mate (Gucio) were both equipped with a GPS/GSM-transmitter (provided by INTERREX-RINGS) in the breeding colony in Zator in the Upper Vistula River Valley (Southern Poland). The transmitters (23 g) were charged by solar panels and recorded the birds' geographical location during five years. The normal time interval between data collection sites was typically 10 minutes, but during flight, the intervals were as short as every 20 seconds due to the use of the innovative BOOST function. Every year the birds nested in the same place in the colony. Every year during the breeding season, the birds usually foraged in the same places. The feeding area during breeding period of the male and female only slightly overlapped. Male foraged mainly on a rubbish dump in Oświęcim (17 km from the colony). Female foraged mainly on a rubbish dump in Chrzanów (24 km from the colony), in carp ponds, along rivers and in agricultural fields (maximum ~30 km from the breeding place). Male and female wintered in different locations. During the non-breeding period, the female moved a maximum of 600 km from the colony (Serbia), while the male moved a maximum of 200 km (Poland and Czechia). Equipping pair of birds with transmitters enables comparison of foraging patterns during the breeding season, synchronisation of behaviour and comparison of wintering sites.

ORAL_: **ARGOS SATELLITES TELEMETRY: A LONG STORY OF BIRD MIGRATION MONITORING**

Sophie Baudel

CLS, Ramonville, France

Argos is the main satellite telemetry system used by the wildlife research community, environmental agencies, NGOs, foundations, charities, parks and reserves for both animal tracking and behavioral data collection worldwide. Notably, this technology is widely used to observe, analyze and understand large-scale migrations. Argos tracking data have been collected for hundreds of animal species among birds, land animals, marine animals, fishes make available a high-precision mapping of migratory corridors, stop-overs, feeding and foraging areas, breeding, and birth areas, and the fine description of seasonal, interannual and other time-scale dependent behavioral factors. Ornithologists represent the most important community of Argos wildlife tracking users in terms of number of tag.year and has been using Argos since the availability of this technology for the great benefit of ornithology research. Progress in miniaturization offer now 2 grams tags, allowing to monitor birds as light as 60 to 70 grams. The talk will illustrate the Argos-tracked bird species by figures, along with global and regional maps. It will also introduce the future of the Argos satellite constellation with the perennial and long-term support of the 4 institutional space agencies launching the Argos satellites (namely Cnes, Noaa, Eumetsat and Isro) and the launch by the end of 2025 of the new and innovative Kineis nanosatellites constellation, fully compatible with the Argos legacy one. Kineis will offer decisive functional and technical steps: a new downlink capacity, an improved revisit time with more than 30 satellites, an improved Argos Doppler positioning and new modulation frequencies, also allowing for more miniaturization steps.

ORAL_: **MOVEMENT PATTERNS OF PALLAS'S GULLS (*LARUS ICHTHYAETUS*) IN THE DANUBE DELTA REVEALED BY GPS TRACKING**

Ioana COBZARU[1], Relu C. GIUCĂ[2], Viorel D. GAVRIL[1], Doru S. DOBRE[1], Emanuel BALTAG[3], Răzvan ZAHARIA[1], Ramona A. BIVOLEANU[1], Mihaela CIOBOTA[1], Andreea CIOBOTĂ[1], Gabriel B. CHIȘAMERA[1]

[1]Institute of Biology Bucharest – Romanian Academy, Spl. Independenței 296, Bucharest, Romania; [2]University of Bucharest, Research Centre in Systems Ecology and Sustainability, Bucharest, Romania; [3]Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea" Agigea, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Agigea, Romania; e-Mail: gabriel.chisamera@gmail.com

Despite being one of the largest gull species in Europe, the Pallas's Gull (*Larus ichthyaetus*) remains one of the least known larid species in terms of breeding biology and movements. To bridge this knowledge gap, we launched a GPS tracking program in the Danube Delta (Romania) to study movement patterns and habitat use during the breeding season and other phenological phases. Eight birds (two adult females, four adult males, one 3-year-old male and one unsexed first-year bird) were tagged with GPS/GSM loggers (six Interrex Lego 2G-EL26 and two FLEX-II 3G Max-Mag). The loggers operated in 'BOOST mode,' dynamically adjusting data collection frequency (1-60 minutes) based on bird activity, allowing for more information being obtained during periods of high activity such as foraging or migration. Preliminary GPS tracking data from April 2024 to January 2025 reveal a strong preference for large lacustrine habitats, including the Razelm-Sinoe Lagoons, Nistru River Estuary and the Dniester Liman for both breeding and non-breeding birds. Non-breeding individuals displayed exploratory movements of up to 300 km. Post-breeding tracking revealed that three adult males and one subadult male overwintered in the breeding area, while the tagged adult female and the first-winter bird overwintered in north-western Turkey, south of the Marmara Sea. One adult male overwintered near Alexandria, Egypt. This study provides novel insights into the long-distance movements and wintering strategies of the Pallas's Gull, which is crucial for effective conservation management of this species. These findings can inform management decisions regarding protected area designation and help mitigate potential threats to this species.This study was funded by project no. RO1567-IBB09/2025 from the Institute of Biology Bucharest of the Romanian Academy; and Project "Strengthening the ecosystem and biodiversity research capacity of the University of Bucharest through e-science and technology - Lifewatch Romania" SMIS: 126867".

ORAL_: **DIVERSITY OF SMALL WADERS IN THE PERIYAKULAM LAKE, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI, TAMIL NADU, SOUTHERN INDIA.**

Sivanantham Mohanraj[1,2], Jeganathan Pandiyan[3]

[1]Government Arts College (AUTONOMOUS), Karur, Tamil Nadu, India; [2]Afflied to Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India; [3]AVC College (Autonomous), Mannampandal, Mayiladothurai, India

Naturally occurring yearly wetland serve as a major foraging ground for migratory shorebirds. Nevertheless little is known about the role of various environmental factors in determining the density, diversity and species richness of shorebirds and their prey in Southern India. This study was designed to collect quantitative data for the first time on the role of yearly and availability in influencing the density, diversity and species richness of migratory shorebirds in the Periyakulam wetland of Tamilnadu, India. Shorebirds were counted systematically from (January) 2011 to (December) 2013 using the total count method. Ten different species of water birds were categorized into small wading birds in which, the Black Wing Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) showed higher turnover (55.4±19.03 No/ha) during the 2013 than the other two years. However, the Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) and Yellow Wattled Lapwing (*Vanellus malabaricus*) were not recorded during 2013. But all the eight species were recorded during two years of the study period i.e. 2011 and 2012. The density, diversity and species richness of small wading birds were highest during the year 2013. The density and diversity varied significantly among the years ($P<0.05$) but the species richness did not differ significantly among the years ($P>0.05$). Conservation Implication The current study is also revealed that the population characteristics of wading birds declined. Wetlands are at a critical stage and it is very important to protect and conserve them to ensure the global network of migratory routes of Shorebirds.

POSTER_: THE COST ACTION EUFLYNET (CA22117). JOINING FORCES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRANT LANDBIRDS

[1]Ivan Maggini and [2]Emanuel Baltag*

[1]Konrad-Lorenz Institute of Ethology, University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna, Savoyenstraße 1a, 1160 Wien, Austria;

[2]Marine Biological Station " "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania

E-mail:ivan.maggini@vetmeduni.ac.at

Migratory landbirds in the Eurasian-African flyway are declining, and this is particularly evident in long-distance migrants, such as those who cross the Sahara Desert when traveling between their breeding and non-breeding areas. Understanding the causes of this decline is challenging, mostly due to the vast area covered by the species. We need to understand the needs of each species at each stage of their yearly cycle, but we still lack fundamental knowledge about them, especially in understudied regions where research capacity is limited. The EUFLYNET COST Action CA22117 (www.euflynet.eu) was launched by a large group of experts to address these issues and enhance the conservation status of migrant landbirds. The Action has three main aims: 1. Identify and involve relevant stakeholders from non-ornithological fields to address the societal issues connected with landbird migrant conservation; 2. Build capacity in areas where research effort on migrants is lacking or underrepresented; 3. Coordinate research across flyways to provide a global approach to knowledge on migratory species. The Action started in November 2023 and will continue for four years. So far, it has involved 259 researchers from 35 countries, but we hope to keep the network growing. The Action funds researcher mobility for meetings and training and also offers grants for short-term scientific missions or dissemination conferences. The main outputs of the Action are the realization of Species Action Plans, the launch of new collaborative projects, and an increased integrative and inclusive network of researchers across the flyways.

Final category: Parasitology

ORAL_: ECTOPARASITES INFESTING SCOPOLI'S SHEARWATER (*CALONECTRIS DIOMEDEA*): PRELIMINARY DATA FROM THE STROFADES ISLANDS COLONY IN GREECE.

KARAGIANNI Penelope[1], SARATSIS Anastasios[2], PERODASKALAKI Anastasia3, XIROUCHAKIS Stavros[3], KARRIS Georgios[1]

[1]Department of Environment, School of Environment, Ionian University, M. Minotou-Giannopoulou str. Panagoula, 29100, Zakynthos, Greece; [2]Veterinary Research Institute, Hellenic Agricultural Organization Dimitra, 57001, Thermi, Greece; [3]Natural History Museum of Crete – University of Crete, Heraklion, Crete, Greece; e-Mail: penelopekaragianni@hotmail.com

Seabird colonies offer favorable conditions for the propagation of ectoparasites, but little is known about their effects on the host breeding success. This study shows preliminary data of the ectoparasites of Scopoli's Shearwater (*Calonectris diomedea)* from its largest Greek colony, which is located in Strofades islands (Ionian Sea).During 2024 breeding season, the colony was visited twice. During the first visit (chick rearing period, late July), thirty adults were caught, while during the second visit (early October), fourteen juveniles were caught. Birds were ringed and various measurements were taken other than blood sample collection for genetic analyses and haemoparasite screening. The birds were checked for ectoparasites, which were found to infest thirteen of them (seven adults and six juveniles). The ectoparasite community included parasites belonging to three lice genera, namely *Halipeurus* spp., *Saemundssonia* spp. (family Philopteridae) and *Austromenopon* spp. (family Menoponidae), and one flea genus, *Xenopsylla* spp. (family Pulicidae). These results are in accordance with former studies in other colonies. Lice of the genus *Halipeurus* were the most common ectoparasites, being found in 20% of the individuals, both adults and juveniles, though lice of the genus *Austromenopon* was found only in adult birds (4.5% of the individuals). The study will continue in 2025 at Strofades colony targeting the same breeders to evaluate possible effects of ectoparasites on shearwaters reproductive success.

POSTER_: STOMACH ENDOPARASITES OF THE WOODCOCK (*SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA* LINNAEUS, 1758 (AVES - SCOLOPACIDAE) IN DJURDJURA NATIONAL PARK

Faiza Marniche[1,2,3,4], Nadia MERIBAI-BOUGHELIT[5]

[1]National Veterinary School (ENSV) Rabie Bouchama,El Alia, Algiers, Algeria,, Alger, Algeria; [2]Research Laboratory for the Management of Local Animal Resources (GRAL)(ENSV), Algiers, Algeria; [3]Ecobiology and Animal Physiology Research Laboratory,, OUM EL BOUAGHI, Algeria; [4]Research Laboratory for the Protection of Plants in Agricultural and Natural Environments against Plant Pests National Higher Agronomic School of El Harrach (ENSA), Algiers, Algeria; [5]Université M'Hamed BOUGARA de Boumerdès, Boumerdès, Algeria

This study focuses on 65 woodcocks captured near the Djurdjura National Park in the winter of 2018. The parasite study in Woodcock (*Scolopax rusticola* Linnaeus, 1758 (Aves -Scolopacidae) showed the presence of *Paricterotaenia paradoxa cestodes* (29%) in first place. Copro-microscopic examinations revealed the presence of *Syngamus* spp. Nematode eggs (1.94%) in 4 woodcocks and *Aploparaksis* spp. Cestode eggs (37.86%) in 6 woodcocks.

Final category: Wildlife management

ORAL_: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ANTHROPOGENIC AND NATURAL HABITATS ON THE BREEDING SUCCESS OF WHITE STORKS (*CICONIA CICONIA*) IN EASTERN EUROPE

Valentin Mihalescu[1], Lucian Fasola-Matasaru[2], Emanuel-Stefan Baltag[3]

[1]Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania; [2]EPC Environmental Consulting, Bucharest, Romania; [3]Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; e-Mail: emanuel.baltag@uaic.ro

Human-induced changes to landscapes, such as urbanization, intensive agriculture, drainage, and river regulation, which cumulatively result in habitat loss, have profoundly impacted biodiversity and are expected to continue doing so for hundreds of years. Synanthropic birds, such as the White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), exemplify species that adapt to human-altered environments while facing challenges from habitat fragmentation and land-use management.

This study investigates the nesting selectivity and breeding success of White Storks in the Moldova region of eastern Romania based on a comprehensive monitoring program conducted from 2016 to 2019. Through extensive field surveys and spatial analysis, 453 nests were recorded, revealing that breeding success was influenced by elevation, habitat composition, and weather conditions. Results show that nests located below 200 meters above sea level had higher breeding success (mean: 2.75 chicks per nest) compared to those situated above 200 meters (mean: 2.16 chicks per nest).

Over the four-year study period, the mean breeding success increased annually. Furthermore, traditionally managed mixed landscapes with extensive river and lake shore areas supported higher success rates compared to areas dominated by monoculture.

These findings underscore the critical importance of conserving diverse, low-altitude habitats and wetlands to sustain White Stork populations in the face of increasing human settlement and environmental pressures.

ORAL_: GENETIC DIVERSITY OF WILD AND CAPTIVE BARBARY PARTRIDGE (*ALECTORIS BARBARA*) POPULATIONS FROM MOROCCO

Laila Sabrate[1], Giovanni Forcina[2], Saâd Hanane[3] and Abdellah Ichen[1]

1Biodiversity, Ecology and Genome Laboratory (BGCG), Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed V University in Rabat, 4 Avenue Ibn Battouta BP 1014 RP, Agdal, Rabat 10000, Morocco; 2Universidad de Alcalá, Global Change Ecology and Evolution Research Group (GloCEE)/Soil Biology and Subterranean Ecosystems Research Group (GIBSES), Departamento de Ciencias de la Vida, 28805 Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, Spain; 3Center for Innovation, Research and Training, Water and Forests National Agency, Avenue Omar Ibn El Khattab, BP 763 RP, Agdal, Rabat 10050, Morocco; E-mail: abdellahichen@gmail.com

Asessing the genetic diversity and structure is crucial in wildlife conservation management. Nevertheless, there are intensively managed game species that are largely neglected in terms of genetic makeup. The Barbary Partridge (*Alectoris barbara*), a medium-sized phasianid naturally ranging in northern Africa, is one such paradigmatic examples. A pair of breeding stations have been operating in Morocco using wild breeders since the early 2000s, when no genetic data were available for local wild populations, nor genetic screening was envisaged for the founders. Twenty years later, the degree of genetic diversity of wild Barbary Partridge populations in Morocco and elsewhere in its native range remains a mystery. In this work, we genotyped the mitochondrial DNA control region (ca. 1000 bp) in wild and captive *A. barbara* populations from Morocco. Our findings indicated a high and well-distributed genetic diversity, with a moderate differentiation between captive and wild populations. This result is likely attributable to either the extensive release of farm-reared individuals or the sharing of widespread and allegedly ancestral haplotypes. Nonetheless, the occurrence of private haplotypes across all the wild populations calls for their separate management. The use of genome-wide loci coupled with a more comprehensive sampling is largely advisable to achieve a thorough understanding of the genetic diversity of the Barbary Partridge and define management units accordingly.

ORAL_: IMPROVING BIRD PROTECTION IN „PRUTUL DE JOS" RESERVE

Viorica PALADI[1], Victoria NISTREANU[2]

[1]*„Prutul de Jos" Scientific Reserve, Slobozia Mare, Republic of Moldova*

[2]*Institute of Zoology, Moldova State University, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, vicnistreanu@gmail.com, victoria.nistreanu@sti.usm.md*

The „Prutul de Jos" Scientific Reserve from the Republic of Moldova was established in 1991 with the aim of protecting, preserving and studying the wetland and floodplain ecosystems, as well as creating favorable conditions for the growth and reproduction of wild flora and fauna species, especially rare ones. It is part of the Ramsar Wetland "Lower Prut Lakes" (2000) and the Biosphere Reserve "Lower Prut" (2018). According to Law no. 1538 from 1998, "On the Fund of State Natural Areas," in 2013, an area with integral protection was delimited, covering 168 hectares, with representative species of Lake Beleu. Over the years, certain areas have been altered under the influence of environmental and anthropogenic factors (drought, siltation, development of infrastructure for oil extraction activities etc.). Based on the studies conducted in the last 30 years, it is proposed to modify the boundaries of integral protection area, namely to exclude an area of 25.9 hectares and include two other areas of significant importance for the Reserve. These areas are located on both sides of the Manolescu channel, a few meters from its confluence with Lake Beleu. The main component would be the mixed colony formed by the species: *Ardea alba, A. cinerea, Egretta garzetta, Platalea leucorodia, Plegadis falcinellus, Ardeola ralloides, Nycticorax nycticorax, Microcarbo pygmaeus, Phalacrocorax carbo* and, probably, *Bubulcus ibis* since 2024. Many other aquatic bird species also nest in this site, including rare species listed in IUCN Red List.

The study was performed within MSU subprogram 010701 and contract 01-23p-096/03-05-2024 financed by National Environmental Fund.

POSTER_: ANALYSIS OF THE AVIFAUNA IN TWO GREEN AREAS OF CRAIOVA MUNICIPALITY SUBJECT TO SIGNIFICANT ANTHROPOGENIC MODIFICATIONS

[1]Mirela Sabina RIDICHE, [2]Carmen Daniela BĂLESCU

[1]The Oltenia Museum, Nature Sciences Department, Popa Șapcă Str., No. 8, Craiova, Romania. E-mail: ridichemirela@gmail.com;
[2]University of Craiova, Faculty of Horticulture, Department of Biology and Environmental Engineering, A.I. Cuza Street, no.13, 200585 Craiova, Romania. E-mail: alcor3500@yahoo.com

The study renders an analysis of the dynamics of avifauna in two important green areas of Craiova Municipality: the Botanical Garden "A. I. Buia" and Lake Craiovița. The two areas (located in closed proximity but very different in terms of ecological significance and ecosystem composition) have undergone extensive transformations, especially in the last 10 years. The transformations have been more radical in the perimeter of Lake Craiovița (about 85% of its surface was drained and then covered by a group of buildings that together make up the largest commercial complex in the city), so the impact on local biodiversity, and the avifauna in particular, is significant. Before the major anthropogenic interventions in 2020, the area covered by Lake Craiovița was home to 109 bird species, of which about 45 breeding there. After the reconfiguration of this wetland, about 76 bird species have completely disappeared, no longer finding adequate conditions for their bioecological requirements. Different interventions took place in the Botanical Garden perimeter in 2015-the beginning of 2016. Until then, about 83 species were recorded in this area, 29 of which being nesting species; the new ecosystems resulting from the reorganization and modernization of the Botanical Garden shelter about 54 species, approximately 17 of them breeding in their habitats. In each of the two studied green areas, we observe that the impact anthropogenic resulted in a considerable decrease in the number, frequency and density of wild bird species up to the total disappearance of some avian communities.

POSTER_: **AVIFAUNA WITHIN THE MAIN CAMPUS OF IMAM MOHAMMAD IBN SAUD ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA**

Hassan Rudayni

Department of Biology, College of Science, Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; E-mail: HARUDAYNI@imamu.edu.sa

The avian diversity of two zones within the main campus of IMSIU University was studied during the period from July 2019 to June 2020. A total number of 1,653 individual birds belonging to 15 species and 13 families was recorded. Out of these, 760 individuals were recorded in Zone-A and 893 individuals in Zone-B. Species richness in Zone-A was 15 while it was 13 in Zone-B. Census index of the birds was recorded as follows: 4.6 Birds/ha and 7.9 Birds/ha in both Zones A and B, respectively. Bird species sighted was higher in Zone-B as compared with Zone-A, as indicated by Shannon-Wiener Diversity Index (H) which accounts for 1.83 in Zone-A and 1.65 in Zone-B. Common Pigeon (*Columba livia*), House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and Laughing Dove (*Spilopelia senegalensis*) were among the most frequently sighted. From the current study, it is recommended that Zone-B is pedestrianized for the enrichment and protection of the avian species. Also, new policies should be put forward by the relevant authority within the main campus to maintain avian diversity, such as fostering afforestation and green landscapes, in addition to establishing artificial lakes and ponds

POSTER_: EVOLUTION OF THE GREY PARTRIDGE (*PERDIX PERDIX*) POPULATION IN THE CORBII MARI HUNTING FUND (DÂMBOVIȚA COUNTY)

Sebastian Petrică CONSTANTIN[1], Maria Denisa CONETE[1,]

[1]The National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Pitești University Centre, Faculty of of Science, Physical Education and Informatics, Department of of Natural Sciences, City Pitesti, Country Romania E-mail: denisa_conete@yahoo.com; maria_denisa.conete@upb.ro

The Grey Partridge (*Perdix perdix*) population showed drastic decreasing numbers throughout Europe in recent decades, despite being considered a common species in western Eurasia. This galliform occurs in the Hunting Fund Corbii Mari, which is located in the southern part of Romania and, more specifically, in Dâmbovița County. The area occupied by the hunting reserve streches over 5758 ha (agricultural land, meadows, vineyards, orchards, grazing land and forests). The Grey Partridge can be considered a barometer species for the future of biodiversity in the study area, informing about the management actions to undertake. The purpose of this study was to analyze the trends of the Gray Partridge population, identify threats to the species and establish conservation measures for the species in the study area. The census was carried out through repeated observations (in the morning and the evening) with binoculars between May 15 and June 15 from 2011 to 2022, . We observed a slight decline, with 210 indviduals censused in 2011 and 187 in 2022. The harvest has also decreased, spanning from 60 ividuals in 2011 to 5 in 2015. The current threats to the species are numerous: habitat loss, monocultures, the disappearance of huts, cultivation under plastic, intensive agriculture (mechanization and chemicalization of agriculture), overestimation of the number, overhunting, poaching, natural predators (birds of prey, foxes, jackals), stray cats and dogs. We propose management actions. In addition, it is necessary to control poaching and temporarily limit hunting.

POSTER_: **WINTERING SWAN POPULATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA: TRENDS, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONSERVATION INSIGHTS**

Vitalie AJDER[1,2,3*], Silvia URSUL[2], Mihail GHILAN[2,4], Emanuel Ștefan BALTAG[5]

[1]"Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, ICI RECENT AIR Center, Laboratory of Interdisciplinary Research on the Marine Environment and Marine Terrestrial Atmosphere, Marine Biological Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", Agigea, Romania; [2]Society or Birds and Nature Protection, Chișinău, Republifc of Moldova; [3]The Institute of Ecology and Geography of the Moldova State University, Chișinău, Republic of Moldova; [4]Faculty of Biology, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania; [5]Marine Biological Research Station "Prof. Dr. Ioan Borcea", "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; e-Mail: ajder.vitalie@gmail.com

Swans are important indicators of wetland health, reflecting ecosystem changes across Europe's wintering landscapes. This study examines wintering swan populations in the Republic of Moldova using IWC data (2013–2025) collected annually between January 10 and January 20 through standardized protocols. Our findings highlight key trends in abundance, distribution and habitat use, which bear implications for regional conservation.

The Manta-Beleu Lake (Prut River) and North Nistru sector (Nistru River) emerged as primary hotspots, hosting over 90% of recorded swans. The Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*) was dominant, peaking at 3,247 individuals at Manta-Beleu in 2025 and 2,209 individuals at North Nistru in 2022. The Whooper Swan (*Cygnus cygnus*) was consistently present, with notable counts of 516 at North Nistru (2022) and 460 at Manta-Beleu (2024). The Tundra Swan (*Cygnus columbianus*) appeared sporadically, reaching a peak of 113 individuals at Manta-Beleu in 2022. Moreover, a rare Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*), the first recorded in Moldova, was observed in 2025 - most likely an escapee from captivity.

Swan distribution covered multiple wetland basins, including the Prut River (Manta-Beleu, Costești-Stânca), Nistru River (Dubăsari, Ghidighici) and Black Sea–Danube Delta-associated lakes (Taraclia, Congaz). While major sites showed population growth, smaller wetlands (e.g., Ghidighici, Taraclia) hosted fluctuating groups (<100 individuals), highlighting their role as supplementary habitats.

Our findings suggest a general increase in swan numbers at key sites, likely driven by improved monitoring efforts, climate change and habitat conditions. Continuous monitoring remains essential for understanding population trends and informing conservation strategies in Moldova.

Final category: Others

ORAL_: GEOPOLITICS AND HISTORICAL EVENTS: UNCOVERING THE DRIVERS OF THE GLOBAL AVIAN TRADE

Luís Reino[1,2,3], Miguel Porto[1,2,3], Joana Ribeiro[1,2,3]

[1]CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, InBIO Laboratório Associado, Campus de Vairão, Universidade do Porto, Vairão 4485-661, Portugal; [2]CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, InBIO Laboratório Associado, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa, Tapada da Ajuda, Lisboa 1349-017, Portugal; [3]BIOPOLIS Program in Genomics, Biodiversity and Land Planning, CIBIO, Campus de Vairão, Vairão 4485-661, Portugal; e-Mail: luis.reino@cibio.up.pt

The global wildlife trade—often tied to illicit activities—drives the introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) as well as the depletion and extinction of native species. However, the mechanisms driving temporal and regional shifts in wildlife trade dynamics remain largely unexplored. This study investigates how historical events—such as 9/11, the EU ban on wild-caught birds, the subprime mortgage crisis, the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, and regional conflicts—have influenced wildlife trade fluxes. By processing CITES data with innovative statistical approaches (Point change analysis regression), we aim to uncover the role of geopolitics and major historical events in shaping the dynamics of global wildlife trade. To do so, we analyzed import patterns of wild-caught animals across different historical events (roughly between 1995-2022) to understand changes in trade fluxes and their geographic distribution. We anticipate that major historical and geopolitical events, or trade barriers, significantly alter trade fluxes of wild-caught birds, thereby affecting the likelihood of new IAS introductions and consumer preferences. The wildlife trade is not only an ecological concern but also intersects with organized crime and is influenced by major historical events. Understanding these complex interactions is crucial for developing effective conservation strategies and policies to mitigate the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the wildlife avian trade.

ORAL_: **GLYCOSAMINOGLYCANS FROM THE MATRIX OF THE BIRD EGGSHELLS**

Fallen Kai Yik Teoh[1,2], Emma Jurmand[1], Richard Holdaway[3,4], Stanley Ambrose[5], Matthew James Collins[6,7], Mads Frost Bertelson[8,9], Valentina Fulvia Isaja[2], Beatrice Demarchi[2], Henrik Clausen[1], Rebecca L. Miller[1]

[1]Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; [2]Department of Life Science and Systems Biology, University of Turin, Italy; [3]Department of, University of Canterbury, New Zealand; [4]Palaeocol Research Ltd. New Zealand; [5]Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois, USA; [6]The Globe Institute, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; [7]McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, University of Carmbridge, UK; [8] Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Denmark; [9]Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark; e-Mail: fallen@sund.ku.dk

The laying of hard-shell eggs is one of the most successful reproductive adaptations in Earth's evolutionary history. Bird eggshells serve multiple critical functions: they protect the embryo from physical damage and microbial contamination, regulate the exchange of metabolic gases and water, and provide calcium for embryonic development. Bird eggshells are primarily composed of calcium carbonate, along with an organic matrix that includes proteins and glycoproteins such as proteoglycans. Proteoglycans are a unique class of evolutionarily conserved glycoconjugates, characterized by glycosaminoglycan (GAG) chains covalently attached at one or more sites to a core protein. These GAG chains exist in both sulfated and non-sulfated forms of repeating disaccharides and are known to play a pivotal role in the biomineralization process. However, the specific GAG components that contribute to biomineralization across diverse bird species remain poorly understood.

In this study, we investigated GAGs in bird eggshells by extracting and purifying them, digesting them with enzymes, labeling the resulting GAG disaccharides with a 2-aminoacridone fluorescent tag, and analyzing them using ultra-performance liquid chromatography. Our results revealed that chondroitin sulfate is the most abundant type of GAG in all analyzed bird eggshells. Among these, chondroitin 4-sulfate was the most highly expressed GAG disaccharide in most bird eggshells, except those of ostriches and chickens.

Furthermore, we successfully recovered GAGs from ancient ratite bird eggshell specimens, demonstrating that glycans could serve as valuable biomolecules not only for studying modern birds but also for profiling extinct and ancient bird species from paleontological records.

ORAL_: **WHEN SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING MEET FOR ORNITHOLOGICAL OUTREACH**

Corina FORĂSCU[1,2]

[1]Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași, Romania, Faculty of Computer Science; [2]Romanian Ornithological Society; e-Mail: corina.forascu@info.uaic.ro

The intersection of digital tools and citizen science has revolutionized ornithological outreach, making bird knowledge and conservation more accessible to the public. This presentation explores how software applications—Ornitodata https://pasaridinromania.sor.ro/ornitodata/despre**,** Uite Barza https://www.sor.ro/proiect/uite-barza/, Merlin BirdID https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org, eBird https://ebird.org/home, and iNaturalist https://www.inaturalist.org—support volunteer-based activities that promote bird awareness and hence conservation. These tools enable species identification, data collection and real-time monitoring, fostering community engagement in avian studies, based on a citizen-science approach.

Volunteer activities, as we are developing them in the Iași branch of the Romanian Ornithological Society, range from hands-on initiatives like maintaining bird feeders and conducting field observations (either within dedicated international events like MidWinter or EuroBirdWatch, or within specially organized birdwatching tours) to educational efforts targeting diverse audiences, from children to adults, like for example activities during the International Bird Day, the National Day of the Romanian Language or during the Green Week for the highschool students. By integrating software applications into these programs, volunteers enhance data accuracy, streamline participation, and encourage hands-on and long-term study and commitment to ornithology.

The presentation will examine the synergy between technological tools and volunteer-driven initiatives, assessing their impact on public engagement and biodiversity conservation. We argue that leveraging digital platforms for ornithological outreach strengthens data collection while fostering environmental stewardship among volunteers and the public at large. The findings underscore the importance of technology in bridging scientific research and community participation, ultimately contributing to more effective conservation commitments and strategies.

ORAL_: **ONE DECADE OF NEW AND RECONFIRMED BIRD SPECIES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

Mihail GHILAN[1,2*], Silvia URSUL[2], Gheorghe ȚÎCU[2], Alexandru ȚURCAN[2], Viorica PALADI[3], Vitalie AJDER[2,4]

[1] Faculty of Biology, " Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași, 907015 Agigea, Romania; [2] Society for Bird and Nature Protection, Moldova; [3] "Prutul de Jos" Nature Reserve, Moldova; [4] Institute of Ecology and Geography, Moldova State University, Moldova; e-Mail: mihaighilan30@gmail.com

Although the Republic of Moldova is widely known for its impressive natural heritage, the avifauna of this country is one of the least studied from Europe. To fill this knowledge gap, a small community of local researchers and bird enthusiasts have recorded field data across the country, following several monitoring schemes and using eBird and Ornitodata databases to store it. Since the last update from 2014, increasing field effort alongside a changing landscape has led to many new discoveries between 2013 and 2024. A total of 20 new taxa (19 species and 1 subspecies) have been newly recorded together with 11 previously known species with very few observations. As far as the newly recorded are concerned, 55% of them were deemed to result from an increased field effort, 30% represent range expanding species, and 15% were considered escapees. Out of these, 5 species are new breeders for the country with the rest being either migrants, rare winter visitors or vagrants. Concerning previously known yet rare species, increased field efforts have led to reconfirming two thirds of them, while population irruptions and applied telemetry have allowed reconfirming the others. Despite the growing efforts, there are still other suspected wintering and breeding species still to be found, and other breeders are expected to come from south in the future following active range expansion or shifting.

POSTER_: SPATIO-TEMPORAL DISTRIBUTION OF SOIL ARTHROPODS IN WHITE STORKS (*CICONIA CICONIA* L.,1758) NESTS IN EASTERN ALGERIA

Linda Bouguessa- Cheriak[1,2], Slim Bouguessa[1,2] and Faiza Marniche[3]

[1]Department of Living Beings, Tebessa University, Algeria; [2]Water and Environment Laboratory, Tebessa University, Algeria; [3]Zoology Laboratory, National Higher Veterinary School Rabie Bouchama (ENSV), El Alia, Algiers, Algeria; E-mail: cheriaklinda2005@yahoo.fr

White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) nests create a specific niche for arthropods, especially during the warmer months following the arrival to their breeding area. Most of these arthropods are introduced to the nests by adult storks shortly before and after hatch, probably by means of dung, dry grass and other plant material (leaves, roots, moss), paper, straw, rags and feathers as nesting materials. This study has two objectives: to assess the influence of nest location on the richness and abundance of arthropod fauna in these habitats, and explore the relationship between the stages of development of storks and the two biodiversity parameters mentioned above. The research was carried out in the region of Tebessa in Algeria from April to June 2022, during the period of growth and development of young storks. We focus on two environments: urban and sub-urban, with two stations being chosen for each of the t. Samples were taken from the bottom of the nests every two weeks. We found 7288 arthropods, of which 4236 in urban areas (2702 individuals in station 1 and 1534 individuals in station 2) and 3052 in sub-urban areas (1871 individuals in station 1 and 1181 individuals in station 2). Twenty-five genera and species divided into three large groups—springtails, moths and other insects—were inventoried. Mites were dominant in nests in urban areas (77% and 72%) followed by springtails; in sub-urban areas mites were largely dominant in station 1, while insects dominated in station 2 (55%). The temporal distribution of the species recorded showed that the greatest abundance occurs in June in urban areas and was associated to three-year old storks, with, respectively, 1059 individuals in station 1 and 717 individuals in station 2. The dominant species in these two stations were *Uropoda orbicularis* and *Uroobovella marginata.* In the sub-urban environment, the greatest abundance was recorded in June with 673 individuals in station 1 and 867 individuals in station 2, being also associated with three-year old storks. Abundant species were *Gnathoncus rotundatus* and *Uropoda orbicularis* in station 2, and *Tyrophagus putrescentia* and *Sancassania* sp. in station 1.

Author Index

Name	Page
Adam Flis	11
Agata Banach	11
Ahmet Can	28
Alina-Elena Ignat	20
Alina Larion	25
Alexandru Ionuț Ciubotariu	26
Alexandru-Mihai Pintilioaie	16, 29
Alexandre Roulin	9
Andi Romilă	35
Anastasia Perodaskalaki	51
Anatolie Savin	25
Andreea Ciobotă	13, 39, 47
Antonio-Marian Doncea	22
Barłomiej Kusal	11
Beatrice Demarchi	63
Carmen Daniela Bălescu	57
Carmen Gache	20, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38
Celine Emmel	17
Ciobotă Mihaela	13, 39
Constantîn Ion	26
Corina Forăscu	64
Dieter Thomas Tietze	17
Doru S. Dobre	47
Dumitru Murariu	13, 29, 39
Emanuel-Ștefan Baltag	16, 22, 29, 47, 49, 54, 60
Emma Jurmand	63
Faiza Marniche	52, 66
Fallen Kai Yik Teoh	63
Frank E. Rheindt	42
Frederick Angelier	11
Gabriel Bogdan Chișamera	22, 39, 47
Garima Singh	12
Giovanni Forcina	42, 55
Gheorghe Țîcu	65
Henrik Clausen	63
Iancu Mariș	33
İlhamı Kiziroğlu	28

Name	Page
Ioana Cobzaru	47
Ioana-Gabriela Filipiuc	27
Ivan J. Starikov	14, 41
Ivan Maggini	49
Ivana Novčić	30
Jacob Solomon Raju Aluri	24
Jacek Betleja	11, 45
Jens Oldeland	17
Karagianni Penelope	31, 51
Karris Georgios	51
Kalpakis Stavros	31
Laura-Elena Topală	16, 29
Laila Sabrate	55
Liviu Olariu	35, 38
Lucian Fasola-Matasaru	54
Lucian Sfica	16
Luís Reino	62
Maria-Alexandra Nechifor	32
Maria Denisa Conete	59
Maria Iuliana Pîrlica	36
Maria-Manuela Ciobanu	35
Marcin Faber	45
Marko Raković	30
Mădălina-Elena Roșu	33
Matthew James Collins	63
Mateusz Ledwoń	11, 45
Matei Florea	38
Meng Yue Wu	42
Michael Wink	8, 41
Miguel Porto	62
Mihaela Ciobotă	47
Mihail Ghilan	60, 65
Mılos Radaković	30
Mureșan Ioan	33
Murariu Dumitru	13, 29, 39
Nadia Meribai-Boughelit	52
Nathalie Kürten	11
Natalia Atamas	11
Natalia Sochirca	25
Penelope Karagianni	31, 51

Name	Page
Piotr Tryjanowski	19
Qian Tang	42
Ramona A. Bivoleanu	47
Răzvan Zaharia	47
Rebecca L. Miller	63
Relu C. Giucă	47
Richard Holdaway	63
Roxana Strungaru-Jijie	29
Sîtnic Victor	25
Sıvanantham Mohanraj	48
Sophie Baudel	46
Stanisław Broński	11
Stanley Ambrose	63
Stanković D	23
Stavros Xirouchakis	51
Szekers O	23
Teodor Glavan-Caranghel	25
Tamer Albayrak	43
Tony-Alexandra Ticu	37
Valentin Mihalescu	54
Valentina Fulvia Isaja	63
Vera Gvozdova	14
Victoria Nistreanu	25, 56
Viorel Dumitru Gavril	39, 47
Vitalie Ajder	16, 60, 65
Viorica Paladi	56, 65
Yang Ming Tan	42
Yong Chee Keita Sin	42

Collaboration with

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iaşi; Faculty of Biology.

Dokuz Eylül University

Akdeniz University

DEU, Science Faculty

DEU, Lab of Ornithology

DEU, Fauna and Flora Research Center

SOR - Romanian Ornithological Society

PrintHaus

PrintHaus