



THE EASILY FLOODED AREA OF THE DANUBE (DOLJ COUNTY, ROMANIA), REFERENCE SITE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF COMMUNITY INTEREST SPECIES

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SYNOPSIS

The paper presents few references regarding the biodiversity of the easily flooded area of the Danube from the undammned sector Calafat-Ghidici, located in the southern part of Dolj county, Oltenia region.

Ornithofauna of this area represents the faunistical component best studied and best presented in this study, especially because in the researched area there is also the ornithological reservation Ciuperceni-Desa.

Because many of the recorded bird species have unfavourable preservation statute and they are under the incidence of national law and of Birds Directive of EEC 79/409, the easily flooded area of the Danube from Calafat – Ghidici sector was designated Special Protected Avifaunistical Area/SPA (ROSPA001 code), this way being integrated in the ecologic european network Nature 2000.

From the total number of all birds species identified in the easily flooded area, a number of 21 species are included in the Red List of the Vertebrates in Romania, and from these, 4 are declared Monuments of Nature: *Egretta garzetta*, *E. alba*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Himantopus himantopus*.

The pedoclimatic and biogeographical characteristics in the area included in the large curvature, delimitedated by Danube which flows from Calafat determined protection also for other habitats from this space (dunes with sands flora, forests of *Robinia pseudacacia*), this way being outlined an assembly with statute of Site of Community Interest/SCI (ROSCI0039 code).

INTRODUCTION

The Danube Alluvial Plain is the result of the repeated overflowing of the Danube, the water surpassing the riverbed during the spring freshets.

The erosion and the accumulation phenomena, which were due to the freshets, together with the eolian action led to the appearance, within the Danube Alluvial Plain, of an ensemble of ponds and sand dunes that evolved on West-East direction. The frequent direction changes undertaken by the great river because of the geomorphologic units that it was crossing and because of the neotectonic movements, led to the fragmentary development of the alluvial plain within the loops of the meanders, so that the following segments (loops) can be delimited on the territory of Dolj County:

- Calafat – Ciuperceni – Rast;
- Rast – Negoii – Bistreț;
- Bistreț – Gura Jiului.

The aspect, the morphological characteristics and the land use potential of these compartments are different (COTEȚ, 1957).

As a consequence of the systematization started in the second part of the 20th century, the landscape of the easily flooded alluvial plain was modified on about 80 – 90 percent, the old morphology of the Danube Alluvial Plain (with huge accumulations of mobile and immobile sand, with chaotic relief of dunes disposed in fascicles, with depressions and lake basins between them etc.) being preserved only in Calafat – Ciuperceni - Ghidici sector, which was not dammed: Map 1 – 2. Țarova, Lata, Arcear, Jdegla, Manginița ponds are still preserved here in natural state, with extended reed plots and forests characterised by rich spontaneous wood vegetation: *Salix* sp. and *Populus* sp., mixed with *Quercus pedunculiflora*, *Ulmus foliacea*, *Morus alba*, *M. nigra*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Acer* sp. and sub-shrubs, such as *Cornus sanguinea*, *C. mas*, *Ligustrum vulgare* *Rosa canina* etc. The vegetal herbaceous layer, well developed within Ciuperceni – Ghidici easily flooded sector, forms the productive and succulent pastures and hay fields that are intensely used by the animal breeders. Among the herbaceous associations, there are widespread the hydrophilic pastures, represented by leguminous species (*Trifolium* sp., *Medicago lupulina* and others), alongside with certain graminaceae, such as *Poa angustifolia*, *Agropyrum repens*, *Lolium perene* and others; there is to be added the presence of the steppe pastures, where the predominant species are: *Mollugo cerviana*, *Crocus reticulatus*, *Alyssum tortuosum*, *Hordeum bulbosum*, *Sirenia cana*, *Trifolium scabrum* etc. (TIȚĂ, NĂSTASE, 1997, 2002).

The general biogeographic character of this territory, equally covered with forests and ponds, on the one hand, and meadows and small agricultural surfaces, on the other hand, is completed by a rich and various fauna comprising invertebrates and vertebrates, with elements that are specific to each habitat:

- steppe and agro-ecosystems elements: invertebrates – predominantly insects (orthopterans: locusts, grasshoppers, crickets, praying mantis; coleopterans: *Scarabeus* sp., *Sisiphus* sp. and others; hymenopterans; homopterans; dipterans, to

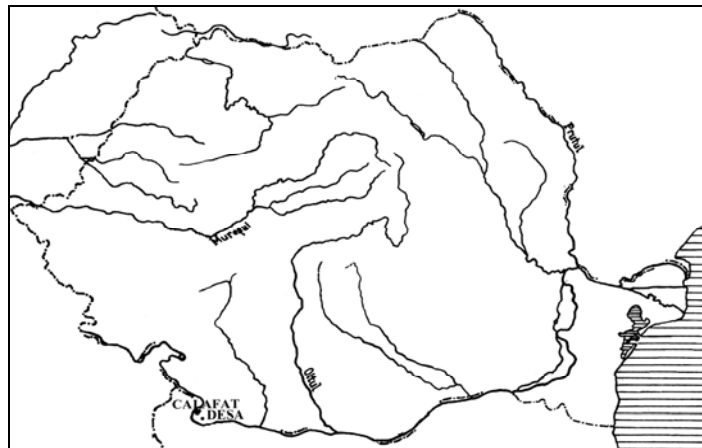
which various lepidopterans, ichneumonids are to be added and others) and vertebrate – especially birds, which nestle and find their food on the soil, among the grass of the steppe meadows or in the cereal cultures (*Coturnix coturnix*, *Perdix perdix*, *Burhinus oediconemus*, *Alauda arvensis* etc.) and rodent mammals: *Citellus citellus*, *Microtus arvalis*, *Apodemus agrarius*, *Cricetus cricetus*, *Spalax leucodon*;

- forest elements: invertebrates - gasteropods (*Cepaea*, *Campylaea*, *Limax*, *Helicella*); insects: Coleoptera, Aphides, Hymenoptera, Cynipidae, Tetrredinidae, Lepidoptera; vertebrates – amphibians (*Hyla arborea*), reptiles (*Natrix natrix*), birds (arboreal), which belong to the families *Accipitridae*, *Falconidae*, *Columbidae*, *Caprimulgidae*, *Turdidae*, *Sylviidae* etc. and nestle in orchards, bushes, thickets or in the skirts of the forest, groups of trees, and mammals (*Sus scrofa*, *Vulpes vulpes*);

- pond elements with animals that are characteristic to the water mass: the zooneuston (protozoans, rotifers, some cladocerans and others); the zooplankton (small shell-fishes - cladocerans and copepods, used as food source by the fish sapling); the zoonekton (fish associations: *Cyprinus carpio*, *Ctenopharingodon idela*, *Carassius auratus*, *Carassius carassius*, *Alburnus alburnus*, *Leuciscus idus*, *Tinca tinca*, *Perca fluviatilis*, *Lepomis gibosus*, *Rutilus rutilus*, *Esox lucius*), amphibians: *Triturus cristatus*, *Rana ridibunda*, *Bombina bombina*, *Bufo viridis*, reptiles: *Natrix tessellata*, *Emys orbicularis*, diving and/or swimming aquatic birds: *Podiceps* sp., *Phalacrocorax* sp., *Anas* sp., *Aythya* sp., *Fulica atra* and, not so often, aquatic mammals: *Lutra lutra*, *Ondrata zibethica*, that contribute to the maintenance of the ecologic equilibrium) and animals that are characteristic to the bottom of the basin/the zoobenthos made up of: insects larvae, snails, shells, worms; within the amphibian habitat, which comprises the biotopes of the aquatic macrophytes, of the sandy-oozy beaches and of the wet meadows a great number of species are concentrated, the main fauna component being represented by birds belonging to the orders Ciconiiformes, Charadriiformes, Falconiformes and Passeriformes.

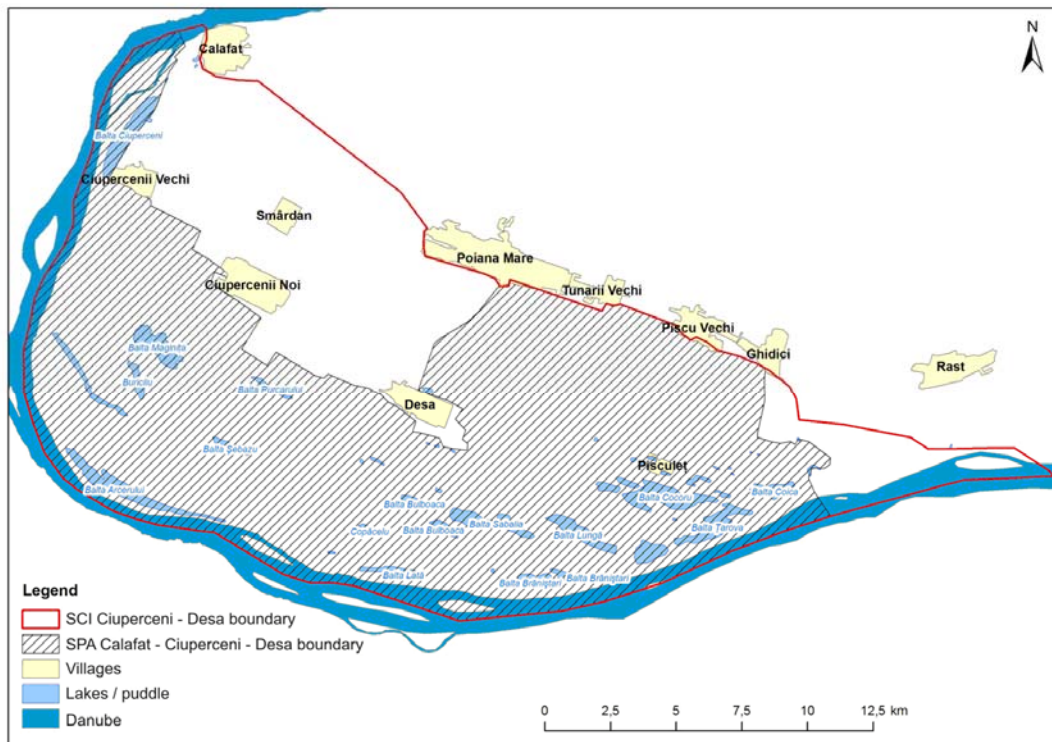
A particular characteristic is represented by the presence of the Danubian eyots (five eyots, with surfaces comprised between 20 and 240 ha, are to be noticed in Calafat – Jiu sector), formed as a consequence of the fluvial accumulations within the riverbed, under the form of beaches and sand banks that gradually got covered with specific vegetation and became ideal shelter places for many bird and mammal species.

The climate of the Danube Alluvial Plain is marked by Mediterranean air penetrations; thus, the winters are not really severe, while the summers are warm and droughty. The mean annual temperature is above 11°C (the highest on the territory of Romania): in January it has the value of – 2°C (at Calafat), while the value characteristic for July is higher than 23°C, marking the highest monthly mean. The precipitation is more abundant in the second part of the autumn (October – November) and at the beginning of the summer (May – June). No matter the season, the winds blow on East-West or West-East direction, being more intense especially during spring time (** 1960).



Map 1.

Map 2.



Boundaries of Calafat - Ciupercei - Danube Special Protection Avifaunistical Area (SPA) and of Ciupercei - Desa Site of Community Interest (SCI)

Map 1 - 2: Easily flooded area of the Danube (Calafat – Ghidici sector) - Romania

Ornithofauna of this area represents the faunistical component best studied and best presented in this study, especially because in the researched area there is also the ornithological reservation Ciuperceni-Desa (Romanian Law no. 5/2000).

The research of the biodiversity within the Danube Alluvial Plain preoccupied various scientists in the course of time: the first scientific data belongs to the Italian Count MARSIGLI (1658 – 1730); in the paper *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus observationibus* (1726), he included numerous mentions of the fish and birds that were signalled along the Danube, between the province of Banat and the Black Sea. Much later, VESPREMEANU (1964, 1967), TĂLPEANU (1965-1971), TĂLPEANU, PASPALEVA (1974), dedicated their research to the ornithofauna within Calafat - Olt sector. Various mentions of the bird fauna of the easily flooded area were made by MURARIU et al. (1982), CIOCHIA (1992), MUNTEANU et al. (2002), RIDICHE (2004, 2007).

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The pedoclimatic and biogeographical characteristics in the area included in the large curvature, delimited by Danube which flows from Calafat determined protection also for other habitats from this space (dunes with sands flora, forests of *Robinia pseudacacia*), this way being outlined an assembly of community statute interest (RO SCI 0039) (Order M.M.D.D. 1964/13 XII 2007) - Map 2.

MATERIAL AND WORK METHOD

The paper was elaborated on the basis of the observations realised in the field, between the years 2004 and 2008, during the months March and September (Table 1). Special attention has been paid to the ponds Arcear, Lata and Țarova and to their surrounding areas, where there are the highest concentrations of birds. To complete the avifaunistic list, we also used certain data from the field inquiry, from the hunters and the local people respectively; as work methods, we used the transections and the direct observation with 10x50, Carl Zeiss Jena binoculars; in order to recognize and to systematically note the bird species, we used the bird determination books BRUUN (1999), correlated with the volumes of DOMBROWSKI (1946) and LINȚIA (1954, 1955).

Table 1. The situation of the observations realised in the field, between 2004 and 2008

Crt. no.	Researched areas / included ponds	Period
1.	Ciuperceni – Desa (Arcear pond, other ponds)	August 16 th – 19 th , 2004
2.	Desa – Tunari (Lata pond, Lunga pond)	March 26 th , 2005
3.	Ciuperceni – Desa (Arcear pond, other ponds)	August 12 th , 2005
4.	Ciuperceni – Desa (Arcear pond, Maginita ponds, other ponds)	July 16 th - 17 th , 2006
5.	Tunari – Pisculeţ – Ghidici (Țarova pond, other ponds)	September 5 th , 2006
6.	Desa – Ghidici (Țarova pond, other ponds)	July 24 th , 2007;
7.	Ciuperceni – Desa – Tunari (Arcear pond, Lata pond, other ponds)	August 15 th – 17 th , 2007
8.	Ciuperceni – Desa (Arcear pond, Lata pond)	July 17 th - 20 th , 2008

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Starting with 2004, we initiated a study regarding a new inventory of the bird fauna within the easily flooded area of the Danube/Calafat - Ghidici sector (Dolj County), the identification of the national and community interest species introduced in the national and European Red List, as well as in the law annex of the Directive 79/409 EEC (tab. 2). At the same time, we followed the state of the habitats and the natural and man-induced factors, which influence the degree of preservation or deterioration of the ecosystems and the dynamics or the absenteeism of the populations of certain bird species.

During our research, we also paid attention to the assessment of the bird effectives, mainly of the aquatic ones, but these evaluations will be processed when the study is completed in all ecological aspects of the area; however, it is important to mention the fact that for some species (*Ardea cinerea*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *Ciconia nigra* etc.) the populations registered a numeric progress, the biggest effectives being recorded during the summer of 2006 and 2007 years; this was a consequence of the fact that the trophic resources (fish, batrachia) increased under the impact of the Danube freshet, amplified in the spring of 2006 and of the favourable climatic conditions. We also mention the constant nesting of *Burhinus o. oedicnemus* species, which, because of retrenchment of natural habitats, is considered a vulnerable species in Europe and in our country is registred in the Red List, having the statute of endangered species, demanding priority in preservation (RIDICHE, 2007). We consider appropriate introducing in this study some data that can serve migration studies and that certifies the importance of habitats in the area we have reserched in the transit of birds from nesting areas to hibernation areas; these data were given by the rings found on the corpse of a *Ciconia nigra*/black stork (orange plastic ring: 8 AU; metal ring: 4258 BX NARODNE MUSEUM PRAHA), found in Poiana Mare forest nearby Desa village (43 ° 56' N /23 ° 05' E) in december 2001; place

where the ring was fixed on: MALACKY (48° 24' 08" N, 17° 01' 45" E) SLOVACIA; the date when the ring was fixed on: 04 07 1999; the person that fixed on the ring: Rastislav Rybanic; the rings are being found now in the ornithologic patrimony of Museum of Oltenia (RIDICHE, 2004, 2005). In the same range of information, are the ones given by a specimen of *Platalea leucorodia*/spoonbill, marked with rings at both legs (two blue plastic rings with 9A code and a metal ring with the inscription NH MUSEUM BELGRADE 6S00124); the bird was found immobilized in a fishing net on a Danube shore, in Desa village area (43° 82' N /22° 94' E) on August 12, 2007; after contacting The Ornithologic Stations of fixing up rings and informing them about the data found on the rings (with the help of Romanian Ornithologic Station and Romanian Ornithologic Society, was established that the bird got the ring fixed up at the nest, on May 20, 2007, on Jazovo pond, in Voievodina – Serbia (45 53 N 020 14 E), by K. Barna și A. Țuljeviț (?).

Although the data presented in this study is partial, we consider that it reflects the bird fauna diversity and the importance of the aquatic and terrestrial habitats within the easily flooded area in the preservation of the sedentary and migratory species.

Table 2. The situation of the species of birds that have been recorded within the easily flooded area of the Danube (Calafat – Ghidici sector) between 2004 and 2008 (March - September), in accordance with the Birds Directive and to the statute of preservation in Europe and in Romania.

Crt. no.	Species	Birds Directive 79/409EEC	European Threat Status	Red Book of the Vertebrate in Romania
1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Pall.)		S	
2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i> (L.)		S	
3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> (Blumenbach)	Annex 1	S	
4	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> (Pall.)	Annex 1	V	V
5	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> (L.)		V (p)	
6	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> (L.)	Annex 1	V (p)	
7	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (L.)	Annex 1	D	V
8	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i> (Scop.)	Annex 1	V	V
9	<i>Egretta garzetta</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	E (Nature Monument)
10	<i>Egretta alba</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	E (Nature Monument)
11	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> (L.)		S	
12	<i>Ardea purpurea</i> (L.)	Annex 1	V	E
13	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i> (L.)	Annex 1	V	V
14	<i>Ciconia nigra</i> (L.)	Annex 1	R	V
15	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (L.)	Annex 1	D	V
16	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> (L.)	Annex 1	E	E (Nature Monument)

17	<i>Cygnus olor</i> (Gm.)		S	
18	<i>Anas penelope</i> (L.)		S	
19	<i>Anas strepera</i> (L.)		V	
20	<i>Anas crecca</i> (L.)		S	
21	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> (L.)		S	
22	<i>Anas querquedula</i> (L.)		V	
23	<i>Anas clypeata</i> (L.)		S	
24	<i>Aythya ferina</i> (L.)		S	
25	<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Guld.)	Annex 1	V	V
26	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (L.)	Annex 1	R	CE
27	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	
28	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (L.)		V	
29	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (L.)		S	
30	<i>Buteo buteo</i> (L.)		S	
31	<i>Buteo rufinus</i> (Cretzschm)	Annex 1	E (P)	V
32	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> (L.)		D	
33	<i>Falco subbuteo</i> (L.)		S	
34	<i>Perdix perdix</i> (L.)		V	
35	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i> (L.)		V	
36	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i> (L.)		S (P)	
37	<i>Porzana porzana</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	
38	<i>Porzana parva</i> (Scop.)	Annex 1	S (P)	
39	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i> (L.)		S	
40	<i>Fulica atra</i> (L.)		S	
41	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	E (Nature Monument)
42	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> (L.)	Annex 1	L*W	V
43	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> (L.)	Annex 1	V	E
44	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (L.)		S (P)	
45	<i>Calidris minuta</i> (Leisl.)		S (P)	
46	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S(P)	
47	<i>Gallinago sp.</i>		S (P)	
48	<i>Tringa sp.</i>		?	
49	<i>Larus minutus</i> (Pall.)		D	
50	<i>Larus ridibundus</i> (L.)		S	
51	<i>Larus argentatus</i> (Pall.)		S	
52	<i>Sterna hirundo</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	
53	<i>Sterna albifrons</i> (Pall.)	Annex 1	D	
54	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> (Pall.)	Annex 1	D	
55	<i>Chlidonias niger</i> (L.)	Annex 1	D	
56	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> (Temm.)		S	

57	<i>Columba oenas</i> (L.)		S	
58	<i>Columba palumbus</i> (L.)		S	
59	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> (Friv.)		S (P)	
60	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i> (L.)		D	V
61	<i>Cuculus canorus</i> (L.)		S	
62	<i>Tyto alba guttata</i> (Ch. L. Brehm)		D	V
63	<i>Athene noctua</i> (Scop.)		D	
64	<i>Strix aluco</i> (L.)		S	
65	<i>Asio otus</i> (L.)		S	
66	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> (L.)	Annex 1	D	
67	<i>Merops apiaster</i> (L.)		D	
68	<i>Coracias garrulus</i> (L.)	Annex 1	D (P)	
69	<i>Upupa epops</i> (L.)		S	V
70	<i>Picus canus</i> (Gmel.)	Annex 1	D	
71	<i>Picus viridis</i> (L.)		D	
72	<i>Dendrocopos major</i> (L.)		S	
73	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i> <i>balcanicus</i> (Hempr. Et Stres.)	Annex 1	S (P)	
74	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	
75	<i>Dendrocopos minor hortorum</i> (Ch. L. Brehm)		S	
76	<i>Galerida cristata</i> (L.)		D (P)	
77	<i>Alauda arvensis</i> (L.)		V	
78	<i>Riparia riparia</i> (L.)		D	
79	<i>Hirundo rustica</i> (L.)		D	
80	<i>Delichon urbica</i> (L.)		S	
81	<i>Anthus campestris</i> (L.)	Annex 1	V	
82	<i>Motacilla flava</i> (L.)		S	
83	<i>Motacilla alba</i> (L.)		S	
84	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> (L.)	Annex 1	S	
85	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (L.)		S	
86	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i> (L.)		S	
87	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> (Ch. L. Brehm)		S (P)	
88	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> (L.)		V	
89	<i>Turdus merula</i> (L.)		S	
90	<i>Turdus pilaris</i> (L.)		S	
91	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i> (L.)		S	
92	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i> (Savi)		S (P)	
93	<i>Acrocephalus scheonobaenus</i> (L.)		S (P)	
94	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>		S	

	(Bechst)			
95	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> (Herm.)		S	
96	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> (L.)		S (P)	
97	<i>Hippolais icterina</i> (Vieill.)		S	
98	<i>Sylvia communis</i> (Lath.)		S	
99	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> (L.)		S	
100	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> (Vieill.)		S (P)	
101	<i>Muscicapa striata</i> (Pall.)		D	
102	<i>Ficedula parva</i> (Bechst.)		S (P)	
103	<i>Aegithalos caudatus europaeus</i> (Herm.)		S	
104	<i>Parus caeruleus</i> (L.)		S	
105	<i>Parus major</i> (L.)		S	
106	<i>Sitta europaea</i> (Wolf.)		S	
107	<i>Certhia familiaris</i> (L.)		S	
108	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i> (L.)		S (P)	
109	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (L.)		S	
110	<i>Lanius collurio</i> (L.)	Annex 1	D (P)	
111	<i>Lanius minor</i> (Gmel.)	Annex 1	D (P)	
112	<i>Lanius excubitor</i> (L.)		D	
113	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> (L.)		S (P)	
114	<i>Pica pica</i> (L.)		S	
115	<i>Corvus monedula</i> (Fisch.)		S (P)	
116	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i> (L.)		S	
117	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i> (L.)			
118	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> (L.)		S	
119	<i>Passer domesticus</i> (L.)		S	
120	<i>Passer montanus</i> (L.)		S	
121	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i> (L.)		S	
122	<i>Carduelis chloris</i> (L.)		S	
123	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i> (L.)		S	
124	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> (L.)		S (P)	
125	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i> (L.)	Annex 1	V (P)	
126	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> (L.)		S	
127	<i>Miliaria calandra</i> (L.)		S (P)	

Legend: Birds Directive: Annex 1 comprises species that are the object of special preservation measures concerning the habitat; **European Threat Status** (Romanian - Statutul de amenințare în Europa) and **Red Book of the Vertebrate in Romania:** CE – critically endangered; E - endangered; V - vulnerable; R - rare; L – limited area; D – declining; S - secure; (P) – provisional preservation statute;

The preliminary list of the birds recorded by us comprises a number of 127 species, 36 of them being registered in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive (D. C. E. 79/409 EEC), being the object of special preservation measures regarding the habitat.

The statistical analysis of the species, conducted from the viewpoint of the European Threat Status, shows the following aspects:

- two bird species (*Platalea leucorodia*, *Buteo ruffinus*) are endangered, requiring priority in preservation;

- seventeen bird species are vulnerable (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Botaurus stellaris*, *Ardeola ralloides*, *Ardea purpurea*, *Ciconia ciconia*, *A. querquedula*, *A. strepera*, *Aythya nyroca* and others), depending on preservation; if the causal factors persist, it is probable that they become endangered species in the near future;

- two species are rare (*Ciconia nigra*, *Haliaeetus albicilla*), having populations that are rarely spread on large surfaces, at global level;

- one species (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) has limited spreading area in Europe;

- twenty-two species are declining (for example: *Nycticorax nycticorax*, *Plegadis falcinellus*, *Tringa totanus*, *Chlidonias hybridus*, *C. niger*, *Streptopelia turtur*, *Tyto alba guttata*, *Alcedo atthis*, *Merops apiaster*, *Coracias garrulus*, *Picus canus*, *P. viridis*, *Riparia riparia* and others), having hatching effectiveness in regress, at European or global level;

- eighty-three bird species are secure, respectively their populations remain viable components of the natural habitats and their spreading areas do not show the risk of reduction.

Of the total number of bird species identified within the easily area, during the above-mentioned period, twenty-one species are included in the Red List of the vertebrate in Romania (one species is critically endangered, seven species are endangered, thirteen species are vulnerable); four of these species are declared Nature Monuments: *Egretta garzetta*, *E. Alba*, *Platalea leucorodia*, *Himantopus himantopus* (**1937).

CONCLUSIONS

Taking into account the updated ornithological situation presented in this study, the designation of the easily flooded area within Calafat - Ghidici sector as Special Protection Area for bird fauna (ROSPA001 code) is justified; at the same time, the area meets the conditions that are necessary in order to receive the status of Site of Community Interest (RO SCI 0039 code).

Due to the fact that many of the bird species recorded within the surveyed area have an unfavourable preservation statute and fall under the incidence of the Birds Directive, we consider that putting this area under law protection will be beneficent for it, from the avifaunistic viewpoint.

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