

Birds of the Ukrainian region of the Upper Tisa

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Introduction

During the past 7 years we examined the avifauna of River Tisa and some of its tributaries. The information collected makes it possible to look at the contemporary avifauna of the River Tisa valley and some of the tributaries, and can help us obtain a current status of the ornithofauna of the basin. With the help of this publication we are trying to give the most complete annotated list of the ornithofauna of the investigated region.

Key words: birds, River Tisa region, Ukraine

Material and methods

We divided the Upper Tisa region into three parts.

Part 1 - includes two rivers which form River Tisa (rivers Chorna Tisa and Bila Tisa), and the section of River Tisa extending from Rachiv to Solotvino. At this section River Tisa is a typical mountain river and it flows between the ranges of Chornogora, Svidovec and Maramarosh.

Part 2 - includes the section of River Tisa extending from Solotvino to Korolevo. At this section the river runs through the Hust-Solotvin depression. The character of the river is mountainous but the river valley is much wider. Here there are many small arms which are isolated from the main river in the summer. Also, there are many small islands.

Part 3 - includes the section of River Tisa extending from Korolevo to Vilok. At this section the river runs in the Transcarpathian plain. The mountain ranges are far from the river, but the character of the river does not change. Large number of islands and arms form the typical landscape of River Tisa in the Transcarpathian plain.

In our work we used the point system of bird observation. In the summertime we floated on the river on catamarans to study the nesting waterfowl fauna. We used Stepanyan's classification during the systematic examination of the fixed birds. This classification is the one that is used by the majority of ornithologists in the former USSR. To avoid vast numbers and to simplify statements we used the definitions by Moshansky (1977).

Thus, based on staying vs. migrating we divided the birds into the following categories:

Vagrant: - species flying about, they can appear any time of the year;

Remigrant: - nesting species that, instead of flying across the area, come only to nest, and migrate away having finished nesting;

Hibernant: - winter species;

Transmigrant: - species that fly over, and definitely do not nest in the area;

Sedentary: - species that are always found in the area.

Results

On the whole we have focused our observations on bird species (see Table 1.) that characterize the avifauna of the River Tisa valley . We did not consider the complete list of Transcarpathian's ornithofauna but only those species which we have good knowledge about. (Table 1.).

Strautman (1954) wrote that valleys are the main migratory routes during seasonal bird migration and notes that river valleys play an important role when birds need to cross mountain regions.

The valley of River Tisa is the largest migration flyway of the Rook (*C. frugilegus*) (Lugovoj, 1992). The Hust-Solotvin depression which we differentiated as Part 2, is a place where Starlings regularly concentrate during the autumn migration. The valley of River Tisa has the most abundant and diverse avifauna. Many of the birds species now exist only in this valley. Here we can see colonies of the Common Tern (Potish, 1995), although back in the middle of the 20th century it was a nesting species in all Transcarpathian river valleys (Grabar, 1931). Two other tern species i.e. the Little Tern and the Black Tern nest in the valley of River Tisa.

We want to emphasize that the valley of River Tisa is under high anthropogenic pressure. Many of its elements have an impact on the near-water bird fauna. During 7 years of investigations we experienced a process of colonial nester Common Terns splitting into smaller groups. In 1991 this colony had 87 nests and was situated on a single island. Now they spread out on the whole Part 2 of River Tisa.

Because River Tisa is the biggest water area of the Carpathian region and an ecologically important area for many species of the ornithofauna during the nesting period and their seasonal migrations, we believe that it is necessary to include the River Tisa valley into the territories protected by the Ramsar Convention.

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Nr.	Species	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Status
1	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	+	+	+	TRANS., VAGANT
2	<i>Podiceps ruficollis</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
3	<i>P. nigricollis</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
4	<i>P. auritus</i>			+	REMIGRANT
5	<i>P. griseigena</i>			+	REMIGRANT
6	<i>P. cristatus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
7	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>			+	VAGANT
8	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
9	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
10	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>			+	rare REMIGRANT
11	<i>Egretta alba</i>		+	+	VAGANT
12	<i>E. garzetta</i>		+	+	VAGANT
13	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
14	<i>A. purpurea</i>	+	+	+	VAGANT, rare REMIG.
15	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANS.
16	<i>C. nigra</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANS.
17	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>			+	VAGANT
18	<i>Branta rufficollis</i>		+	+	rare VAGANT
19	<i>Anser anser</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
20	<i>A. fabalis</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
21	<i>A. albifrons</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
22	<i>A. erythropus</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
23	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	+	+	+	rare TRANSMIGRANT
24	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, HIBERNANT, TRANSMIGRANT
25	<i>A. crecca</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
26	<i>A. strepera</i>			+	rare REMIGRANT
27	<i>A. penelope</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
28	<i>A. acuta</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
29	<i>A. querquedula</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
30	<i>A. clypeata</i>			+	rare REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
31	<i>Aythya ferina</i>		+	+	rare REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
32	<i>A. nyroca</i>			+	rare TRANSMIGRANT
33	<i>A. fuligula</i>		+	+	rare REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
34	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
35	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
36	<i>M. merganser</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
37	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	+	+		REMIGRANT
38	<i>Milvus migrans</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
39	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
40	<i>C. pygargus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
41	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
42	<i>A. nisus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
43	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	+	+	+	HIBERNANT

Table 1. Species composition and status of bird communities of the River Tisa

Nr	Species	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Status
44	<i>B. Buteo</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
45	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
46	<i>A. chrysaetos</i>	+			SEDENTAR
47	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
48	<i>F. subbuteo</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
49	<i>F. vespertinus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
50	<i>F. tinunculus</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
51	<i>Perdix perdix</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
52	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, TRANSMIGRANT
53	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>			+	SEDENTAR
54	<i>Grus grus</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
55	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
56	<i>Porzana porzana</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
57	<i>P. parva</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
58	<i>Crex crex</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
59	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
60	<i>Fulica atra</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, rare TRANSMIGRANT
61	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
62	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT, REMIGRANT
63	<i>Tringa glareola</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
64	<i>T. nebularia</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
65	<i>T. totanus</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
66	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
67	<i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
68	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT, REMIGRANT
69	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
70	<i>Limosa limosa</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT
71	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT, HIBERNANT
72	<i>L. argentatus</i>		+	+	VAGANT, HIBERNANT
73	<i>L. canus</i>		+	+	VAGANT, HIBERNANT
74	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
75	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
76	<i>St. albifrons</i>			+	REMIGRANT
77	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	+	+		REMIGRANT
78	<i>C. oenas</i>	+	+		REMIGRANT
79	<i>C. livia</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
80	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
81	<i>Str. turtur</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
82	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
83	<i>Bubo bubo</i>	+		+	SEDENTAR
84	<i>Asio otus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
85	<i>A. flammeus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
86	<i>Athene noctua</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
87	<i>Strix aluco</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
88	<i>S. uralensis</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
89	<i>Tyto alba</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
90	<i>Apus apus</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT

Table 1. continue

Nr.	Species	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Status
91	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, rare HIBERNANT
92	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			+	REMIGRANT
93	<i>Upupa epops</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
94	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
95	<i>Picus viridis</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
96	<i>P. canus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
97	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	+	+		SEDENTAR
98	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
99	<i>D. syriacus</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
100	<i>D. minor</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
101	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
102	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
103	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
104	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
105	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
106	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>				HIBERNANT
107	<i>Motacilla flava</i>			+	REMIGRANT
108	<i>M. cinerea</i>	+			REMIGRANT
109	<i>M. alba</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
110	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
111	<i>L. excubitor</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, rare HIBERNANT
112	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
113	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT, REMIGRANT
115	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
116	<i>Pica pica</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
117	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	+			SEDENTAR
118	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	+	+	+	TRANSMIGRANT, SEDENTAR
119	<i>C. frugilegus</i>		+	+	TRANSMIGRANT, REMIGRANT
120	<i>C. corone</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
121	<i>C. corax</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
122	<i>Bombicilla garrulus</i>		+	+	HIBERNANT
123	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	+	+		REMIGRANT, rare HIBERNANT
124	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, HIBERNANT
125	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
126	<i>Silvia atricapilla</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
127	<i>S. borin</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
128	<i>S. curruca</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
129	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
130	<i>Ph. trochilus</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
131	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
132	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
133	<i>F. albicollis</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
134	<i>Muscicapa srtiata</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
135	<i>Saxicila torquata</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
136	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			+	REMIGRANT

Table 1. continue

Nr.	Species	Part 1	Part 2	Part 3	Status
137	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT
138	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, rare HIBERNANT
139	<i>Luscinia megarinchos</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
140	<i>L. luscinia</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
141	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT, HIBERNANT
142	<i>T. torquatus</i>	+			REMIGRANT
143	<i>T. merula</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, HIBERNANT
144	<i>T. iliacus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
145	<i>T. philomelos</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
146	<i>T. viscivorus</i>		+	+	REMIGRANT
147	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
148	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>			+	REMIGRANT
149	<i>Parus palustris</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
150	<i>P. montanus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
151	<i>P. cristatus</i>	+			SEDENTAR
152	<i>P. ater</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
153	<i>P. caeruleus</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
154	<i>P. major</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
155	<i>Sitta europea</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
156	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
157	<i>Passer domestica</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
158	<i>P. montanus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
159	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	+	+	+	REMIGRANT, rare HIBERNANT
160	<i>F. montifringilla</i>	+	+	+	HIBERNANT
161	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
162	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
163	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
164	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR
165	<i>Acanthis cannabina</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
166	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	+	+	+	rare REMIGRANT, HIBERNANT
167	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		+	+	SEDENTAR
168	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	+	+	+	SEDENTAR

Table 1. continue