



Finding Moldova on the map

With the help of birds



EBAA

European Bird Breeding Atlas



Welcome to Moldova!

Things you wanted to know about the country:

General info:

The Republic of Moldova is a small country (33.843,5 km²) situated in the Eastern Europe between Romania and Ukraine.

It is a land-locked country, and the landscape varies from rocky hills (in north) to forested plateaus (in the center) and low meadows/pastures (in the south).

The capital, and the main city, is Chişinău, situated in the center of the country, at almost 400 km from Bucharest (Romanian capital) and 600 km from Kiev (Ukrainian capital). The second large cities are Bălţi (north) and Cahul (south).

Administratively speaking, Moldova is divided into 32 districts called *raioane*, each of them having a residence city. In the south of the country there is a region called Găgăuzia, which has an extended autonomy and is inhabited by Gagauz people (an ethnical group related to Turks), having as the main city Comrat.

Also, in the east of the country, on the left bank of the Dniester river, there is a small region called Transnistria (4.163 km²) which proclaimed itself a republic, having its capital (Tiraspol), own customs, own passports, own administration and own money. The so-called Republic of Transnistria is not recognized by any country, except for Russia, and currently its status is quite sensitive.

Currency: The national currency is the Moldovan leu, with the following exchange rates: 1 Euro: 22 MDL, 1 Dollar: 19 MDL, 1 Romanian leu: 5 MDL, 1 Russian rubla: 0,80 MDL (the exchange rates might fluctuate but not much). In the capital city Chişinău one can find a lot of exchange offices, the hotels have also their own exchange desks (at a little bit higher rate), and of course there are banks that can exchange money.



First step: finding Moldova on the map

Prices: The overall prices for food, transport, fuel are very low, Moldova being one of the cheapest countries in Europe. For example, you can have a very good lunch for 5 euro at almost every restaurant or even cheaper in some cafeterias. The fuel prices are ridiculously low (1 liter of gasoline is less than 1€).

The public transport in Chişinău is very cheap (although in an awful condition) - a ride with the mini-bus costs 3 MDL (15 eurocents) and with the trolley is 2 MDL (10 eurocents).

There are several ways you can get to Chişinău:

- **by plane:** ([the airport](#) is not transited as much as other european airports, but there are some direct flights from Bucharest, Kiev, Odessa, Rome, Bologna, Milano, Torino, Venice, Barcelona, Paris, Wien, Budapest, Moscow, Sankt Petersburg, Dublin, Frankfurt, Munchen, Istanbul, Antalya, Athens, Lisabon, London, Tel Aviv, Larnaca);

- **by bus:** There are regular buses connecting Chişinău with Bucharest, Kiev and most major Romanian and Ukrainian cities. There are 5 to 6 buses per day to and from Bucharest. Due to a longer stay at the border the trip takes around 10 hours. Be aware that there is a basic toilet at the border, however most drivers do not make any other stops. You will also be able to travel to most European cities by bus with Moldovan bus companies.

- **by train:** (Bucharest-Chişinău: there is a night train leaving every 2nd night and it costs approx. 20 Euro for 1st class;also there are trains Kiev – Chişinău and Moscow-Chişinău).

- **by car:** (please pay attention to the fact that the Romanian-Moldovan border represents the European Union border, so the custom procedures are taken seriously when travelling by car. Make sure you have your passports and all the necessary documents for the car. At the border, you will have to pay a small road tax (vignette), which is about €4 for 7 days.Headlights are required at all times -- but this isn't consistently enforced.

- **by ferry:** (although the country is landlocked, there is a ferry service between Giurgiuleşti (Moldova) and Istanbul (Turkey), plying the Danube river to reach the Black Sea. The ferry leaves Giurgiuleşti every Monday and arrives at

Istanbul the following Wednesday. It's not certain if this ferry service is only limited to the high season or not.

Language: The main languages spoken here are Romanian (the official language) and Russian (also widely spoken in the country), while English is not that popular (there are people speaking it in Chişinău and maybe Bălţi or Cahul, but that is all unfortunately). However, young people and teenagers can communicate more or less in English, while older people find easier to speak French (but not all of them). Being an ex-soviet country, Russian is still a *lingua franca* for the local people, and you can find a lot of newspapers, magazines, TV-channels and internet portals in Russian. Both autonomous regions (Găgăuzia and Transnistria) speak Russian, with a very poor knowledge of Romanian and English.

Religion: The main religion here is Orthodox, with more than 85% of followers. There are few religious minorities such as Catholics, Muslims and Jews. Lately, there was recorded a rise among Evangelic Church, Mormon Church, Baptist Church.

Transport: The infrastructure in the country is not that developed. We lack highways, and the national roads are not in a very good condition (for us is ok, but for foreigners might be uncomfortable). The main public transport we use to reach other small cities is the bus and the mini-bus. We also have a network of railways roads, with few trains connecting cities and villages, but this means of transport is not that common among Moldovans. Of course, taxi can be used at any time at higher costs than a bus or train.

Accommodation: Accommodation in Chişinău is not a problem, as there are some hotels with English-speaking staff, although the prices are a little bit high for Moldovan standards (the prices can vary from 45 € to 170 € per night, depending on the facilities offered). But you can always check www.booking.com for a good promotional price. Also, in Chişinău there are plenty of people that rent houses or apartments in common flats. Usually these apartments are modernized and are rented to foreigners at a price similar to those from hotels (sometimes cheaper, it depends on the owner). See www.rental.md, www.4rent.md, www.apartum.com or the same www.booking.com to find a nice and cozy apartment.

Hotels in other cities (like Bălţi or Cahul or even smaller cities) aren't that modern, as the most majority of them were built in soviet times and haven't been restored since then. There is a very good website (www.hailatara.md) which can help you find accommodation across the

country and also offers different types of touristic tours (kayaking, cycling, wine tours, culinary, fishing and traditional crafting, etc).

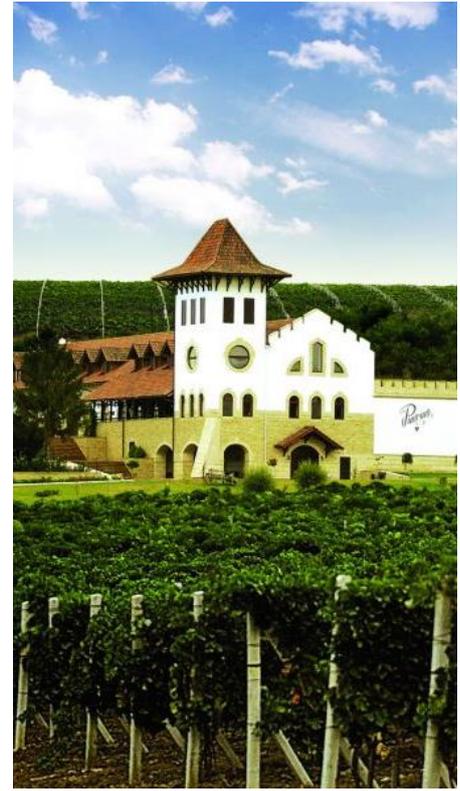
Internet: In case you were wondering about the first level of Maslow`s pyramid (the *today* Maslow`s pyramid) – yes, we have it here. Of course, not everywhere (Wi-fi almost non-existent in such places as bus stops or railway stations), but you can find good internet connection in hotels, bars and restaurants, shops and malls, offices and every kind of modern institutions. Regarding wi-fi in rural places – better forget about it. There are however local internet networks and almost every household have a computer connected to internet.



Otherwise the country side is rather pleasant © SergiuPruteanu

Things Moldova is famous for (or at least we hope so):

- **the wine:** Moldovan people are really proud of their wine, and almost every household produces its own (it is a matter of pride to treat the guests with your own wine). Although the country has a surface of approx. 34 000 km², there are 170 companies that produce different types of wine and sell it to European countries. Also, there are dozens of wineries across the country which even the Moldovan citizens didn`t manage to visit them all (maybe you will): [Asconi](#), [Purcari](#), [Brănești](#), [Chateau Vartely](#), [Cricova](#), [Et cetera](#), [Mileștii Mici](#) (the largest underground wine gallery of Moldova, with 200 km of limestone tunnels), [Mimi](#), [Gitana Winery](#), [Bostavan](#), [Tomai Wine Estate](#), [Cimișlia Wineries](#), [Poiana](#), Ciurim, Cojușna, Mezalimpe – beautiful rural places in which old houses are surrounded by vine plantations and are waiting for guests. Even if you are a wine connoisseur or not, we suggest visiting few of these places and enjoy a tour across the plantations and underground galleries. The majority of wineries offer rooms for rent, so feel free to come anytime.



We love our wine so much we even have a National Wine Day (and yes, we put it on stamps)

- **the food:** In Moldova one can find a mix of Balkan and Slav dishes, but we mostly take pride for national food such as mămăliga (a dish prepared from corn flour) which can be served with cheese or pork meat and replaces very well the ordinary bread; zeamă (chicken soup with homemade noodles), colțunași (boiled dough pockets filled in with cheese); plăcintă (baked dough with cheese, cabbage, pumpkin, apple). Chisinau is a good place for gourmands. There are a lot of good places to eat all over Chisinau. Cheap and tasty food, which is very popular among the local people, is served in most places. For better service and more diverse food, there are a lot of small restaurants and cafés.

Don` t want to disappoint you, but our opinion is that in restaurants the national dishes aren` t prepared as well as in homemade conditions, that is why for some foreigners the Moldovan food might taste awful. We actually recommend eating both homemade food and restaurant food in order to notice the differences. Also, Moldovans adopted quite quickly the international cuisine, so in the Chișinău restaurants one can find Italian, Spanish, German, Georgian, Chinese dishes (not that various as in Europe, but still something to choose from). Fast-food is also wide-spread around the country, but this is not our traditional cuisine :). Also, the fruits are absolutely delicious and very cheap (especially in late spring/early summer

the markets are full of sour and sweet cherries, apricots, blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and peaches).

- **the weird mix of architecture:** although we admire a lot (and envy) the Central-European architecture, we are used to see each day a very strange combination of old interbelic architecture (under Romanian administration), soviet architecture (under the Russian administration) and modern-time architecture (under no one`s administration). In Chişinău at least there is a crazy landscape characterized by vanguardist (and ugly looking) buildings next to hideous socialist flats which altogether put in shadow the last remaining of classical houses built by the good architectural old school. You can find the same mix in other cities from Moldova, but Tiraspol (Transnistria) especially is considered to be a living museum of Soviet culture.



The National Circus from Moldova (© wikipedia.com)



A wanna-be shopping center from Soviet times (© wikipedia.com)



Tiraspol and his symbol: the old friend Lenin (© wikipedia.com)

Speaking of Tiraspol: we don't advise you venturing in those parts, simply because the Transnistrian administration is famous for being suspicious and rude towards foreign visitors. The region is separated from the country by a military border which hinders any cross-border activity, including scientific research. The general atmosphere characterized by the non-welcoming attitude might make you feel uncomfortable, and might cast a shadow of unpleasantness over your trip across Moldova. Also, there were reported some cases of human rights violation, and this is why we think of Transnistria as an unsafe region for us and for our guests, who might come across as US spies for the regional administration simply because they speak English and have stylish equipment.

Nature in Moldova

First of all, Moldova lacks mountains and sea. The overall landform of the country is characterized by hilly plains. In the North of the country there is an important line of rocky hills which once were the bottom of the Old Sarmatian Sea. In the center there is the highest region of the country (429 m), strongly fragmented by valleys and ravines, while in the south the plain becomes smoother.



Typical landscape from the center region (©Vitalie Ajder)

The climate in Moldova is mild continental, with harsh winters (with temperatures reaching -35°C) and hot summers (sometimes up to $+40^{\circ}\text{C}$).

The country is framed by two big rivers: Prut (bordering Romania and Republic of Moldova) and Dniester (bordering Republic of Moldova and Ukraine... and the Republic of Transnistria). Both rivers pass through beautiful places in the north and create nice wetlands in the south of the country before flowing into the Danube River/ Black Sea.

The most majority of the Moldovan land is parceled in agricultural fields, orchards, vine plantations, pastures and grasslands, leaving very little space for wildlife and natural habitats.



Typical Moldavian agricultural landscape: you can have this view in almost every corner of the country
(© Sergiu Pruteanu)



Or this view (© Vitalie Ajder)

Still, cultivation is not intensive in most places and there are a lot of fallows or overgrown vineyards between the fields.

This rich structure of the agricultural landscape, together with the geographic and climatic context created natural conditions for a reach and diverse flora, with over 5500 plant species. In the center region there are the biggest forests of the country: Plaiul Fagului and Codrii (a remnant of the medieval woods), and along the Prut river there is the oldest floodplain forest from Moldova: Pădurea Domnească (King` Forest). In the south the landscape is characterized by steppe vegetation, and along the Prut and Dniester rivers there are meadows with hygro- and hydrophilic plants.

Speaking of fauna, there are 15 000 species of animals (official data), with 461 vertebrate



Speckled ground squirrel
(*Spermophilus suslicus*)
©Vitalie Ajder



Wild cat (*Felis sylvestris*)
©Vitalie Ajder



Caspian whipsnake (*Dolicophis caspius*)
©Vitalie Ajder

species and 15.000 invertebrate species. There are 70 mammal species (of which 21 are Chiroptera), around 280 bird species, 12 reptile species, 13 amphibians and 80 fish species. Our forests are a proper habitat for deers (*Capreolus capreolus*), wild cats (*Felis sylvestris*), wild boars (*Sus scrofa*), European pine martens (*Martes martes*), European badgers (*Meles meles*).

The wetlands, especially those situated close to Danube Delta, offer good living conditions for otter (*Lutra lutra*), raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes procyonoides*), stoat (*Mustela erminea*), weasel (*Mustela nivalis*), and European polecat (*Mustela putorius*).

In more open habitats there were reported beech martens (*Martes foina*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), jackals (*Canis aureus*), speckled ground squirrels (*Spermophilus suslicus*), steppe polecats (*Mustela eversmanni*), meadow vipers (*Vipera ursinii*), smooth snakes (*Coronella austriaca*), and Caspian whipsnakes (*Dolicophis caspius*).

Ornithology in Moldova

This is where the most important part begins.

As previously said, there are around 280 bird species in Moldova. We started recently to count our birds (approx. 60 years ago), thanks to a team of zoologists (Averin, Ganea) who conducted ornithological researches during the USSR times. They wrote several books, one of them being the first synthesis of the avifauna in the country („Moldova`s Birds” 1970, 1971). Unfortunately, the data is old and offers too little information about critical aspects of the modern ornithology: new species, distribution, abundance, changes in migration routes or in geographical range, etc.

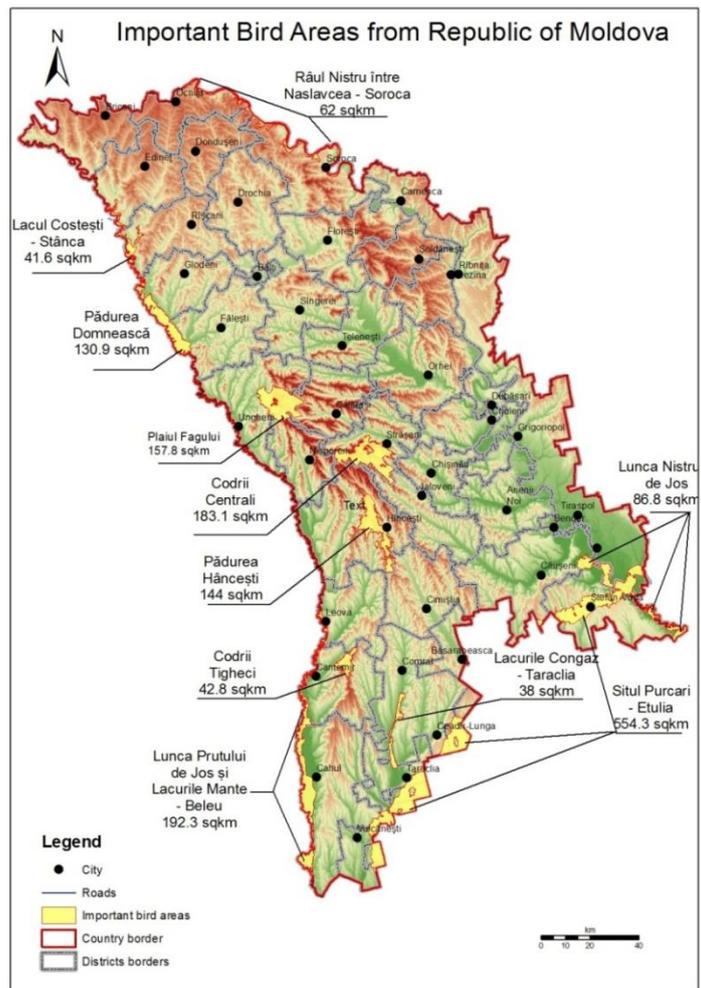
Lately, since 2013, there have been conducted some researches regarding the ornithofauna and places of ornithological importance in the country ([Important Bird Areas, 2014](#)); The ecology of Saker Falcon (2015), International Waterbird Census (known as MidWinter Count) and also a Common Birds Monitoring scheme with a modest start.

There are several places of avifaunistic interest in Moldova, and they represented the main focus regarding the ornithological studies during the recent years. There are 15 Important Bird Areas (12 old sites and other 3 new suggested) which were recently monitored and offered data regarding the species list, breeding, migration, wintering, etc. Please see the map No. 1 on the next page to find the IBAs mentioned before.

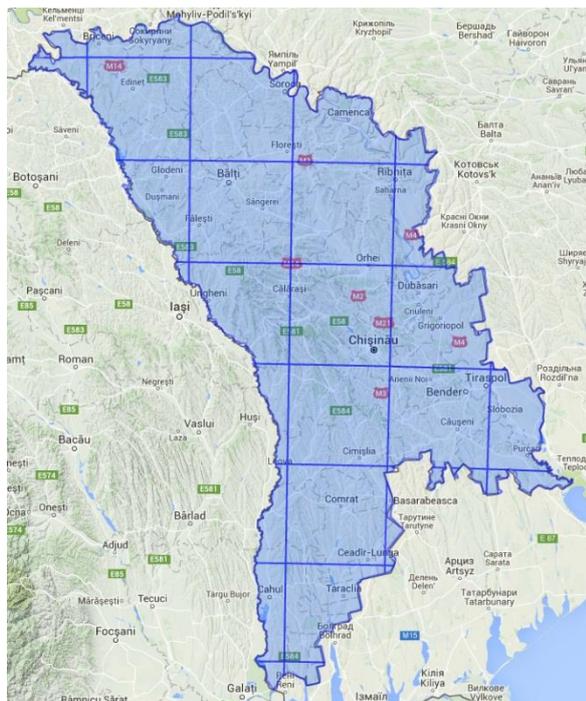
However, there are plenty of locations insufficiently studied; and the countryside offers us further surprises in terms of birds. Recently, since 2016, we expanded our fieldwork and enhanced our monitoring efforts in order to provide data for the [2nd European Breeding Birds Atlas \(EBBA2\)](#), a project which is still running at the moment and represents one of the major focuses of our work.

This is why for us had become very usual to work and speak in terms of „50x50 km squares” and „10x10 km squares”, these being the grids we and our volunteers are currently using.

You can see the maps with both grids (No. 2 and No. 3) on the next page, and also can visualize our [gap map](#) which the EBBA2 coordination team kindly provided us in order to show the square we need extra help.



Map No.1: Important Bird Areas from Republic of Moldova © Igor Roșca



Map No. 2: Moldova national grids (50x50 km)



Map No. 3: 10x10 km square coverage

Oh, but did we tell you about the B I R D S?

Moldova is home to an impressive number of species of birds that vary from residents to breeding birds, migrants and wintering birds. While many species of birds are relatively common across Europe (as they can be found in same habitats across the continent), there are species which are endangered or rare in some European countries. Or simply not so common.

Among the species of the checklist of the birds of Moldova you can find waterfowl and wading birds, a large suite of song birds, raptors, swifts and nighthawks, etc., many of which shows high densities in different areas.

For example, the orchards, vineyards and grasslands host Skylarks, Crested Larks, Hoopoes, Corn Buntings, Orioles, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes, Bee-eaters, Barred warblers, Garden warblers, Eurasian blackcaps, White and Yellow wagtails, as well as Common or Lesser whitethroats.



Lesser Whitethroat (*Sylvia curruca*) © Ion Grosu

The small lakes which were established on small rivers (they are almost 3000) are suitable for Great and Little egrets, Grey and Purple herons, Eurasian coots, Common moorhens, Great reed, Sedge, Marsh and Eurasian reed warblers, and also for Bearded reedlings or Common reed buntings.

In forest habitats (Padurea Domneasca, Codrii, Plaiul Fagului, but also in small forest patches), Red-breasted flycatchers, European pied flycatchers, Spotted and Collared flycatchers can be heard/seen, and one can hear Great spotted, Middle spotted and Lesser spotted woodpeckers drumming. And oh, let`s not forget about the Syrian woodpecker, which for sure can be noticed in almost all the gardens, parks, spinneys and groves around the country.



Collared Flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*) © Martí Franch

However, there are a few hotspots, especially in the south of the country, where ornithologists and birding fans travel in order to see nice species both during spring/autumn migration and summer.

Thanks to the Moldovan birder and photographer Ion Grosu (who has a very nice [birding blog](#)) and to the German-Swiss birder Florian Klingel (who travels a lot in Moldova), we have some information to share with you about birding in Moldova.

The wetlands along river Prut, close with the Romanian border, represent a pre-deltaic ecosystem where species common in the Danube Delta can be found. The wetlands consist of two big lakes (Manta and Belev) which differ in size and are surrounded by several puddles, swamps and fish ponds. Here, aquatic and semi-aquatic species can be seen in breeding season and during migration in huge numbers: egrets (*Ardea alba*, *Egretta garzetta*), herons (*Ardea*

cinerea, *A. purpurea*, *Nycticorax Nycticorax*, *Ardeolar alloides*, *Ixobrychus minutus*), Eurasian bitterns, Spoonbills, Glossy ibises, terns (*Chlidonias hybridus*, *C. niger*, *C. leucopterus*, *Sterna hirundo*), Greylag geese, ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*, *A. crecca*, *A. clypeata*, *Aythya nyroca*), Common shelducks, Black-winged Stilts, Pied Avocets, etc. And nice raptor species: ospreys, white-tailed eagles, booted eagles, common and honey buzzards, short-toed snake eagles, goshawks, sparrowhawks, kestrels and red-footed falcons.

Most of these species can also be found on Congaz and Taraclia lakes, situated in Găgăuzia. This is where the Bugeac Steppe starts, which continues from Moldova across Ukraine till the Black Sea. The habitats offered by this region are very suitable for the Ruddy Shelduck, Ortolan Bunting, European Roller, Saker Falcon, and the fragmented ravines from Etulia (the very south of the country) are a nice place to see the Pied Wheatear.



A record shot of the Saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) in Moldova © Vitalie Ajder

All these southern lakes, mentioned above, represent a good place for both species of pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus* and *P. crispus*), which wander across the country during spring and summer and gather sometimes in huge flock looking for fish.



You came to the right neighborhood:
a Dalmatian pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) in front of a Great white pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) flock
© Ion Grosu



The Levant sparrowhawk (*Accipiter brevipes*) offered us a nice surprise in 2016:
we saw it breeding after 47 of absence. © Ion Grosu

Come to Moldova!

We believe Moldova offers to any foreign birdwatcher the possibility to discover new places and new data. Moreover, any external contribution will be part of the ornithological history here in Moldova, and foreign input is extremely valuable for us.

Thus, do not hesitate to contact us in case you want to plan your vacation in this country. We are always happy to have guests who love birds as much as we do.



A white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) hitch-hiking on its way to Moldova. © Ion Grosu

In the meantime, enjoy reading some interesting links about the country and its nature:

[Indie Travel Podcast`s tips about Moldova](#)

[An elaborate and academic description of our culture and history](#)

[Telegraph`s article about Moldova \(+ a birding suggestion\)](#)

[Birding tips from the Swiss birder Florian Klingel](#)

[Our Czech friends` story about birding in Moldova](#) and [an article published in *Ciconia* journal](#)

Plus, you can take a look at [these](#) photostore to see how the daily life in Moldova looks through the camera lens. And also have a glimpse of some birds photographed by Vitalie Ajder in Moldova.



Ferruginous Duck (*Aythya nyroca*) © Vitalie Ajder



White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) © Vitalie Ajder



White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) © Vitalie Ajder



Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*) © Vitalie Ajder



Great White Pelicans (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*) © Vitalie Ajder



Eurasian Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) © Vitalie Ajder



Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*) © Vitalie Ajder



Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) © Vitalie Ajder



Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) © Vitalie Ajder



Red-footed Falcon, male (*Falco vespertinus*) © Vitalie Ajder



Red-footed Falcon, female (*Falco vespertinus*) © Vitalie Ajder

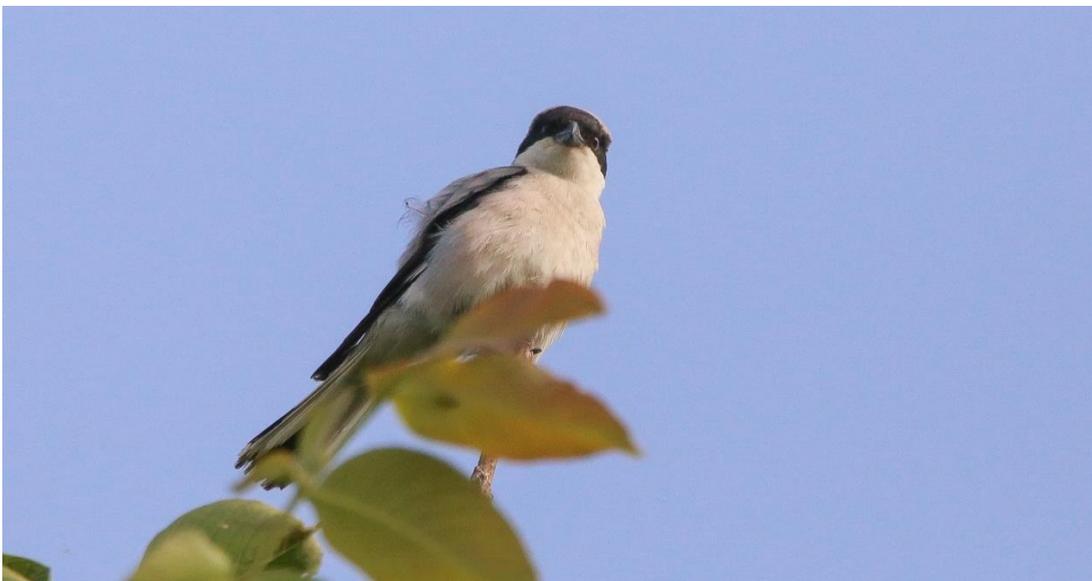


© Vitalie Ajder

Long-legged buzzard (*Buteo rufinus*) © Vitalie Ajder



Tawny Pipit (*Anthus campestris*) © Vitalie Ajder



Lesser Grey Shrike (*Lanius minor*) © Vitalie Ajder



European Bee-eater (*Merops apiaster*) © Vitalie Ajder



Ortolan Bunting (*Emberiza hortulana*) © Vitalie Ajder



Barred Warbler (*Sylvia nisoria*) © Vitalie Ajder



Pied wheatear (*Oenanthe pleschanka*) © Vitalie Ajder

We would like to end our small guide with the bird list from our country. This list is under development, as we lately found new species (in the last 4 years we have found 12 new species for Moldova), or confirmed the presence of other species whose presence was not certain for more than 50 years. So, keep in mind... surprises can occur anytime, and perhaps you could be the author of some nice discoveries in Moldova!

No	English name	Latin name	No	English name	Latin name
1	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	29	Black-throated Loon	<i>Gavia arctica</i>
2	Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	30	Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>
3	Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	31	Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
4	Graylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	32	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
5	White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	33	Comon Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
6	* Lesser White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser erythropus</i>	34	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>
7	Red-breasted Goose	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>	35	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
8	Ruddy Shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>	36	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
9	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	37	Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
10	Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	38	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>
11	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	39	Great White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>
12	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	40	Dalmatian Pelican	<i>Pelecanus crispus</i>
13	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	41	American flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>
14	Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	42	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
15	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	43	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
16	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	44	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
17	Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	45	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
18	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	46	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
19	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	47	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
20	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	48	Gray Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
21	Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	49	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
22	Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	50	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
23	Smew	<i>Mergellus albellus</i>	51	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
24	Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	52	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
25	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	53	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
26	White-headed Duck	<i>Oxyura leucocephala</i>	54	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>
27	Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	55	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
28	Velvet Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	56	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>

No	English name	Latin name	No	English name	Latin name
57	Cinereous Vulture	<i>Aegypius monachus</i>	87	Lesser Kestrel	<i>Falco naumanni</i>
58	Griffon Vulture	<i>Gyps fulvus</i>	88	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
59	Egyptian Vulture	<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	89	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>
60	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	90	Little Crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>
61	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>	91	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>
62	Greater Spotted Eagle	<i>Aquila clanga</i>	92	Demoiselle Crane	<i>Anthropoides virgo</i>
63	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetus</i>	93	Water rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
64	Eastern Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	94	Eurasian Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
65	Steppe Eagle	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	95	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
66	Short-toed Snake-Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	96	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
67	Booted Eagle	<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	97	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
68	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	98	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haemantopus ostralegus</i>
69	Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	99	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
70	Eurasian Marsh-Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	100	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
71	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	101	Black-winged Pratincole	<i>Glareola nordmanni</i>
72	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	102	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
73	Pallid Harrier	<i>Circus macrourus</i>	103	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>
74	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	104	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
75	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	105	Eurasian Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>
76	Steppe Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo vulpinus</i>	106	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
77	Rough-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	107	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
78	European Honey-Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	108	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
79	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	109	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
80	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	110	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
81	Levant Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter brevipes</i>	111	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
82	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	112	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>
83	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	113	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
84	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	114	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
85	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	115	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
86	Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	116	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>

No	English name	Latin name	No	English name	Latin name
117	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	146	European Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
118	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	147	Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
119	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	148	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
120	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	149	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
121	Broad-billed sandpiper	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>	150	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
122	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	151	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>
123	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	152	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>
124	Ruddy turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	153	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
125	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	154	Ural Owl	<i>Strix uralensis</i>
126	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	155	Eurasian Scops Owl	<i>Otus scops</i>
127	Great Snipe	<i>Gallinago media</i>	156	Common Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
128	Jack Snipe	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	157	European Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
129	Red-necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	158	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
130	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	159	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
131	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	160	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
132	Pallas's Gull	<i>Larus ichthyaetus</i>	161	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
133	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>	162	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
134	Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	163	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
135	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	164	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
136	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	165	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
137	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	166	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
138	White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	167	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
139	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	168	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
140	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	169	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
141	Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	170	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>
142	Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	171	European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
143	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	172	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
144	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	173	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
145	Common Wood-Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	174	Little Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>

No	English name	Latin name	No	English name	Latin name
175	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	205	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
176	White-backed woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>	206	Thrush Nightingale	<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>
177	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	207	(Common) Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
178	Woodchat Shrike	<i>Lanius senator</i>	208	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
179	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	209	Common Rock Thrush	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>
180	Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	210	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
181	Lesser Gray Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	211	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
182	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	212	Isabelline Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>
183	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	213	Pied Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe pleschanka</i>
184	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	214	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
185	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	215	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
186	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	216	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
187	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	217	Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
188	Sky Lark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	218	Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>
189	Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	219	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
190	Calandra Lark	<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>	220	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
191	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	221	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>
192	Common Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	222	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
193	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	223	Eurasian Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
194	Common House-Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	224	Great Reed-Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
195	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	225	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
196	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	226	Paddyfield Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus agricola</i>
197	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	227	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>
198	Citrine Wagtail	<i>Motacilla citreola</i>	228	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
199	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	229	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
200	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	230	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>
201	Red-throated Pipit	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>	231	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>
202	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	232	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais cterina</i>
203	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	233	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
204	Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	234	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>

No	English name	Latin name	No	English name	Latin name
235	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	258	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
236	Greenish Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>	259	Spanish Sparrow	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>
237	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapillus</i>	260	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
238	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	261	Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
239	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	262	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
240	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscica pastrata</i>	263	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
241	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>	264	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
242	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	265	Eurasian Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
243	European pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	266	Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>
244	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	267	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
245	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	268	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
246	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	269	Common Rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus erythrurus</i>
247	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>	270	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
248	European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	271	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
249	Eurasian Penduline-Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	272	Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirrus</i>
250	Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	273	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>
251	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	274	Ortolan Bunting	<i>Emberiza hortulana</i>
252	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	275	Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
253	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	276	Black-headed Bunting	<i>Emberiza melanocephala</i>
254	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	277	Little Bunting	<i>Emberiza pusilla</i>
255	European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	278	Yellow-breasted Bunting	<i>Emberiza aureola</i>
256	Rose-coloured Starling	<i>Pastor roseus</i>	279	Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
257	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>			

* For the species in RED we do not have recent observation and we need new data to reconfirm their presence.

Acknowledgements

We want to address our appreciation to the Moldovan birder and photographer Ion Grosu, who provided us nice pictures and keeps posting interest information on his birding blog.

Many thanks to Florian Klingel, who offered us a comprehensive report about his birding experience in Moldova. A big thank you to Igor Roşca who provided the IBA map in Moldova.

Last but not least, we added colour and life to this small guide thanks to the pictures provided by Vitalie Ajder, Sergiu Pruteanu, Marti Franch.

Contact information

In case you are interested to come to Republic of Moldova for birdwatching, please contact us:

Vitalie Ajder

Society for Birds and Nature Protection
President

EBBA2 National Coordination team

Phone: +37379662976

E-mail: ajder.vitalie@gmail.com

Silvia Ursul

Society for Birds and Nature Protection
Project and communication officer

EBBA2 National Coordination team

Phone: +373 069068151

E-mail: lavricsilvia@gmail.com

Information provided by Silvia Ursul

Pictures provided by Vitalie Ajder, Ion Grosu, Sergiu Pruteanu, Marti Franch