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Preliminary Bird Monitoring Report

BISTREȚ

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Beneficiary	WWF-Romania
Contractor	Biol. Mihai Dănuț Avedic
Project location	Lake Bistreț, Dolj County, Romania
Nature of intervention	Monitoring
Implementation period	October 2025, January 2026, March 2026, May 2026, June 2026

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Between October 2025 and June 2026, ornithological surveys were conducted within the monitored sector of ROSPA0010 Bistreț to document bird species composition, abundance and habitat use, as well as to identify potential pressures affecting birds and their habitats. The results provide preliminary information on the avifauna of the area and a baseline for future monitoring and conservation assessments.

As part of the activities required under the EUROLakes project, a floating platform was constructed and installed on Lake Bistreț in May 2026 to provide nesting and resting habitat for various waterbird species, including the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*). The platform was surrounded by protective buoys to delimit a restricted-access area and reduce disturbance from boat traffic and other human activities.

Given its recent installation, the use of the platform by waterbirds, including potential breeding activity, will be assessed during subsequent monitoring periods.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Bird surveys were carried out within the wetland habitats of ROSPA0010 Bistreț, including open-water areas, reedbeds and adjacent terrestrial habitats. The monitoring covered five field visits representing different seasonal periods, including autumn migration, winter, spring migration and the breeding season. Observations were conducted at selected points along a predefined route to record the bird species present and their observed abundance.

Field surveys were conducted on 4 October 2025, 20 January 2026, 31 March 2026, 9 May 2026 and 12 June 2026. Bird observations were carried out at selected points along a predefined route extending from the separation dyke at the entrance to Bistreț to the eastern boundary of Lake Cârna. The route was accessed by vehicle, and observations at each point lasted between 5 and 15 minutes, depending on bird activity and the complexity of the observations. Surveys were conducted between 09:00 and 15:00, with the species and number of individuals observed being recorded at each monitoring point.

The equipment used consisted of:

- Field notebook;
- Panasonic Lumix FZ300 camera;
- Vortex Viper HD 10x42 binoculars;
- Vortex Viper HD 20-60x85 angled spotting scope;
- eTrex Legend HCx GPS;
- DJI Mini 4 Pro drone.

Cartographic materials were prepared using Google Earth Pro. The same transect and, where possible, the same fixed observation points were used during successive field visits to facilitate comparisons of species composition and observed abundance between survey periods. Repeated observations along the route also provided information on variations in water conditions among the former fish-farm basins and on the occurrence of bird species in different habitat types within the monitored area.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The surveys documented 65 bird species. The recorded assemblage includes migratory and breeding bird species associated with the wetland habitats of the monitored area. Several of these species are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC), reflecting the conservation relevance of the surveyed habitats. The observations provide preliminary information on species occurrence and abundance, while further monitoring is required to assess longer-term population changes.

3.1 Inventory of Aquatic and Terrestrial Bird Species

Table 1 presents the bird taxa recorded during the five monitoring surveys, together with their occurrence on each survey date, reported IUCN Red List categories, relevant legal protection status and phenological classifications.

The monitoring results indicate seasonal variations in bird species richness and abundance within ROSPA0010 Bistreț. The highest numbers of species, individuals and breeding pairs are generally observed from mid-April to early May, although these patterns may vary depending on environmental conditions.

Species richness remained relatively similar during the autumn and spring monitoring periods, with 35 species recorded in October, 34 in March and 30 during May–June. In contrast, considerably fewer species were recorded during winter, when at least 85% of the lake surface was frozen, limiting the availability of suitable habitats for aquatic birds.

The monitoring results indicate the occurrence of several waterbird species in relatively high numbers, including Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Black-headed Gull (*Larus ridibundus*) and Pied Avocet (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). Breeding-pair estimates were also reported for species such as Eurasian Coot (*Fulica atra*) and Mute Swan (*Cygnus olor*). Other notable records included Dalmatian Pelican (*Pelecanus crispus*), Great White Pelican (*Pelecanus onocrotalus*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and a single Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). These observations highlight the diversity of the bird assemblage

recorded during the survey period, although changes in abundance between individual visits cannot be interpreted as population trends.

Further monitoring during 2026–2028 will focus on changes in species occurrence and abundance, breeding activity and potential responses to anthropogenic disturbance. Particular attention should be given to water-level fluctuations, habitat alterations and human activities that may affect the suitability of the area for breeding, feeding and resting birds. Continued monitoring will provide additional evidence to support conservation assessments and inform appropriate management measures.

Table 1:. List of species observed during monitoring days between October 2025 and June 2026 and their conservation importance at national and European level.

No.	Species	Observation date					IUCN	Annex to Directive 79/409/EEC	Annex to GEO 57/2007	Phenological status
		04.10 2025	20.01 2026	31.03 2026	09.05 2026	12.06 2026				
1.	*Accipiter nisus*	X					LC	-	-	S
2.	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*				X	X	LC	-	-	OV
3.	*Anas clypeata*	X		X	X		LC	II	5C	S
4.	*Anas crecca*	X	X				LC	II	5C	S
5.	*Anas penelope*	X		X			LC	II	5C	S
6.	*Anas platyrhynchos*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	II	5C	S
7.	*Anas strepera*	X					LC	II	5C	S
8.	*Anas querquedula*			X			LC	II	5C	OV
9.	*Anser albifrons*		X				LC	II	5C	OI
10.	*Anser anser*	X		X	X		LC	II	5C	OV
11.	*Ardea cinerea*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	-	-	S
12.	*Ardea purpurea*				X	X	LC	I	3	OV
13.	*Ardeola ralloides*				X		LC	I	3	OV
14.	*Aythya ferina*					X	LC	II	5C	S
15.	*Aythya nyroca*			X	X	X	LC	I	3	OV
16.	*Bubulcus ibis*				X		LC	-	-	Ac
17.	*Buteo buteo*		X				LC	-	-	S
18.	*Calidris alba*	X					LC	-	-	P
19.	*Calidris alpina*	X					LC	-	-	P
20.	*Carduelis carduelis*	X					LC	-	4B	S
21.	*Casmerodius albus*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	I	3	S
22.	*Charadrius dubius*	X					LC	-	-	P
23.	*Chlidonias hybridus*			X	X	X	LC	I	3	OV

24.	*Ciconia ciconia*			X	X	X	LC	I	3	OV
25.	*Circus aeruginosus*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	I	3	OV
26.	*Columba palumbus*			X	X	X	LC	II	5C	S
27.	*Corvus frugilegus*			X			LC	II	5C	S
28.	*Corvus monedula*			X			LC	II	5C	S
29.	*Cygnus olor*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	-	-	S
30.	*Egretta garzetta*			X	X	X	LC	I	3	OV
31.	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	X					LC	-	-	OV
32.	*Falco tinnunculus*	X	X			X	LC	-	4B	S
33.	*Fulica atra*			X	X	X	LC	-	-	S
34.	*Gallinula chloropus*			X	X		LC	-	-	OV
35.	*Galerida cristata*	X	X	X	X		LC	-	-	S
36.	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	X	X				LC	I	3	S
37.	*Himantopus himantopus*				X	X	LC	I	3	OV
38.	*Hirundo rustica*	X				X	LC	-	-	OV
39.	*Larus ridibundus*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	-	-	S
40.	*Limosa limosa*	X					LC	-	-	P
41.	*Merops apiaster*					X	LC	-	4B	OV
42.	*Miliaria calandra*		X	X		X	LC	-	-	S
43.	*Motacilla alba*	X					LC	-	4B	OV
44.	*Motacilla flava*				X		LC	-	4B	OV
45.	*Numenius arquata*			X			LC	-	-	P
46.	*Passer montanus*		X				LC	-	-	S
47.	*Pelecanus crispus*	X				X	LC	I	3	OV
48.	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*					X	LC	I	3	OV
49.	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	X	X	X			LC	-	-	S
50.	*Phasianus colchicus*			X	X	X	LC	II	5C	S
51.	*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*			X	X	X	LC	I	3	OV
52.	*Philomachus pugnax*	X		X			LC	I	3	P
53.	*Pica pica*	X		X	X	X	LC	II	5C	S

54.	*Platalea leucorodia*	X			X	X	LC	I	3	OV
55.	*Plegadis falcinellus*				X	X	LC	I	3	OV
56.	*Podiceps cristatus*			X	X	X	LC	-	-	S
57.	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	X					LC	I	3	OV
58.	*Sturnus vulgaris*	X	X	X	X	X	LC	II	5C	S
59.	*Tadorna tadorna*	X		X			LC	-	-	OV
60.	*Tringa erythropus*				X		LC	-	-	P
61.	*Tringa ochropus*				X		LC	-	-	P
62.	*Tringa totanus*	X					LC	-	-	P
63.	*Tringa stagnatilis*	X		X			LC	-	-	P
64.	*Tringa sp.*	X		X			-	-	-	P
65.	*Vanellus vanellus*	X		X		X	LC	II	5C	OV

Legend: X - present; LC - Least Concern; OV - summer visitor, breeder; MP - partial migrant; P - passage species, non-breeder; OI - winter visitor; S - resident species / breeder; Ac - accidental.

3.2 Bird Species Abundance and Habitat Associations within the Monitored Area

Bird species recorded within ROSPA0010 Bistreț use a range of aquatic, marsh and terrestrial habitats according to their ecological requirements. The present assessment focused on approximately 2,000 ha within and around the former Bistreț fish-farm complex, rather than the entire Natura 2000 site. Three broad habitat categories were identified within the monitored area and used to describe the habitat associations of the recorded bird species.

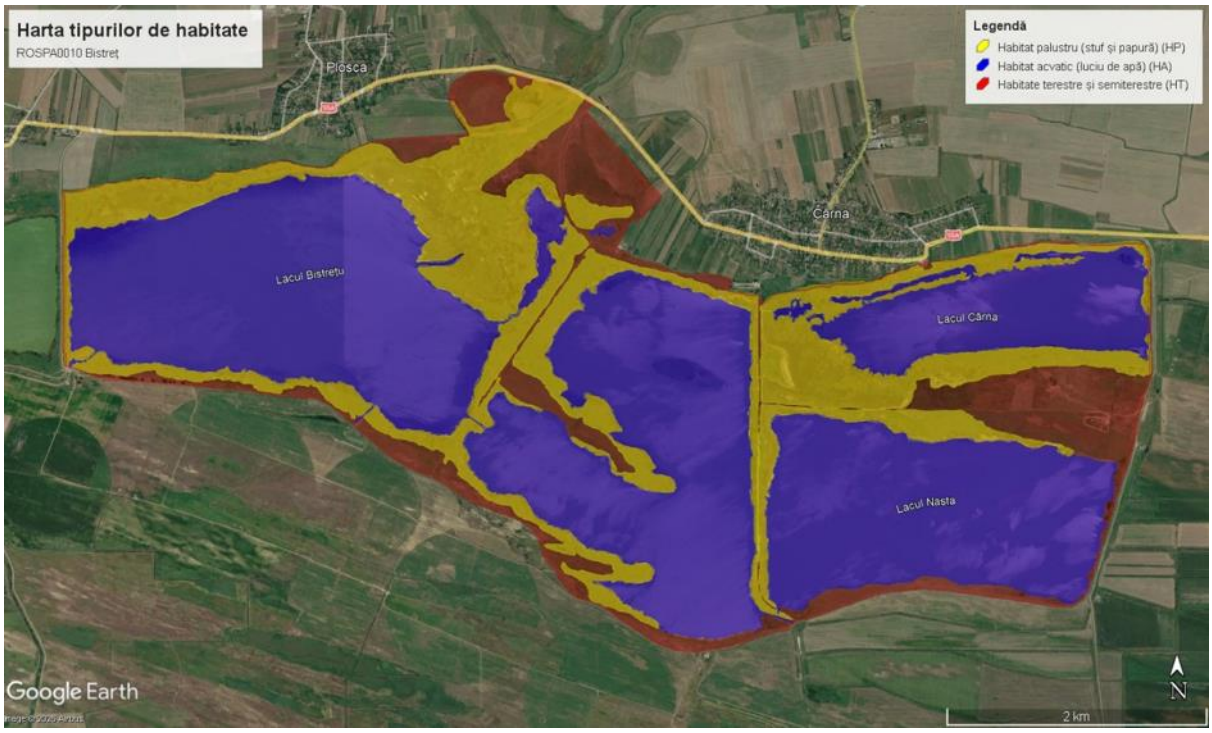

Fig. 1: Main habitat types identified within the monitored sector of ROSPA0010 Bistreț during 2025–2026

The red zone consists of dry to flood-prone habitats and areas of scrub or sparse tree cover. It is occupied largely by aquatic as well as terrestrial bird species, particularly waders and herons, and only rarely by ducks or Eurasian *Coots where* patches of water remain. *Terrestrial species* include buntings, corvids, passerids and others. *Birds use* this basin mainly for resting and feeding, although some species also breed here, such as Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) and Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*). *Dry and* semi-flooded habitat types in the Bistreț region are estimated to cover approximately 250 ha of the 2,000-ha fish-farm area, representing about 12.5% of the region.

The yellow zone represents the dense reedbed within the monitoring area, with internal patches of open water that favour aquatic bird species closely associated with such marsh habitats, which they use for breeding, resting and feeding. Most species are represented by ducks, Common Moorhen (Gallinula chloropus), Eurasian Coot (Fulica atra), herons and reed warblers. This habitat type is expanding, largely because of the low water level. An area of approximately 510 ha out of the 2,000 ha has been considered, corresponding to about 25% of the region**.**

The blue zone is represented exclusively by open-water habitat, covering approximately 1,260 ha, or an estimated 62.5% of the region. It is used exclusively by aquatic bird species, generally for resting and feeding.

Table 2 summarises the habitat associations of the recorded bird species across the three habitat categories and presents the corresponding abundance estimates. These results refer to the monitored sector and should not be interpreted as population estimates for the entire ROSPA0010 Bistreț site.

Table 2.: Estimated abundance of recorded bird species according to seasonal status and associated habitat types within the monitored area.

Species	ZR	ZA	ZG	Abundance of resident species (R)	Abundance of breeding species (C)	Abundance of passage species (P)
Accipiter nisus	X			1 – 2 p.	-	-
Acrocephalus arundinaceus			X	-	40-50 p.	100 i.
Anas clypeata		X	X	10 p.	10-30 p.	500 i.
Anas crecca		X	X	-	10 p.	450 i.
Anas penelope		X	X	-	2 p.	4 i.
Anas platyrhynchos		X	X	20 p.	35-40 p.	2650 i.
Anas strepera		X	X	-	5 p.	200 i.
Anas querquedula		X	X	-	-	46 i.
Anser albifrons		X		-	-	70 i.
Anser anser		X	X	2 p.	6 p.	350 i.
Ardea cinerea			X	35 i.	-	19 i.
Ardea purpurea			X	-	-	8 i.
Ardeola ralloides			X	-	-	16 i.
Aythya ferina		X	X	-	16 p.	100 i.
Aythya nyroca		X	X	-	10 p.	4 i.
Bubulcus ibis			X	-	-	1 i.
Buteo buteo	X			1 p.	-	-
Calidris alba			X	-	-	80 i.
Calidris alpina			X	-	-	135 i.
Carduelis carduelis	X			6 p.	-	-
Casmerodius albus			X	14 i.	-	20 i.
Charadrius dubius			X	-	-	12 i.
Chlidonias hybridus		X		10 p.	30 p.	100 i.
Ciconia ciconia	X		X	-	-	4 i.

Circus aeruginosus			X	4 i.	2 p.	2 i.
Columba palumbus	X			4 i.	2 p.	2 i.
Corvus frugilegus	X			200 i.	100-120 p.	-
Corvus monedula	X			6 i.	-	-
Cygnus olor		X	X	12 i.	20-30 p.	60-100 i.
Egretta garzetta			X	-	-	29-30 i.
Emberiza schoeniclus			X	2 i.	2-4 p.	-
Falco tinnunculus	X			1 i.		4 i.
Fulica atra		X	X	100 i.	80-125 p.	200 i.
Gallinula chloropus		X	X	-	10-15 p.	30 i.
Galerida cristata	X			8 i.	6 p.	8 i.
Haliaeetus albicilla	X		X	-	-	1 i.
Himantopus himantopus		X	X	-	16 p.	16 i.
Hirundo rustica	X			-	-	400 i.
Larus ridibundus		X	X	120 i.	50 p.	1250 i.
Limosa limosa		X	X	-	-	60 i.
Merops apiaster	X			-	6 p.	12 i.
Miliaria calandra	X			4 i.	2 p.	4 i.
Motacilla alba	X			-	6 p.	12 i.
Motacilla flava	X			-	25 p.	50 i.
Numenius arquata		X	X	-	-	7 i.
Passer montanus	X			10 i.	5 p.	10 i.
Pelecanus crispus		X		-	-	15 i.
Pelecanus onocrotalus		X		-	-	70 i.
Phalacrocorax carbo		X	X	8 i.	-	2 i.
Phasianus colchicus	X			2 i.	1 p.	2 i.
Phalacrocorax pygmeus		X	X	8 i.	-	30 i.
Philomachus pugnax		X	X	-	-	200 i.
Pica pica	X			2 i.	10-12 p.	-
Platalea leucorodia		X	X	-	-	20 i.

Plegadis falcinellus		X	X	-	-	60 i.
Podiceps cristatus		X		-	15 p.	10 i.
Recurvirostra avosetta	X		X	-	-	880 i.
Sturnus vulgaris	X			200 i.	35 p.	600 i.
Tadorna tadorna		X	X	-	-	5 i.
Tringa erythropus			X	-	-	2 i.
Tringa ochropus			X	-	-	10 i.
Tringa totanus			X	-	-	100 i.
Tringa stagnatilis			X	-	-	30 i.
Tringa sp.			X	-	-	30 i.
Vanellus vanellus	X		X	-	50 p.	190 i.

Legend: ZR - red zone (dry and semi-flooded habitat), ZA - blue zone (open water), ZG - yellow zone (marsh habitat), i. - individuals, p. - pairs.

According to *Table 2*, 21 of the 65 recorded bird species were associated with both marsh (yellow zone) and open-water (blue zone) habitats, while five species were recorded exclusively in open-water areas, including pelicans, terns and the Greater White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*). Although aquatic habitats dominate the monitored area, 17 species were associated primarily with terrestrial habitats, including scrubland, grassland and woodland.

The Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*), together with several duck species, was predominantly associated with open-water habitats. Terns and marsh terns may use floating vegetation as nesting substrates, while some species also nest on sandy or gravel-covered surfaces, including suitably designed floating nesting platforms.

The red zone, characterised by dry and semi-flooded habitats, is used by aquatic or semi-aquatic species such as White Stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), Great Egret (*Egretta alba*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and several wader species as roosting and feeding areas. These activities generally take place in shallow-water zones, usually maintained by infiltration or rainfall, with varying depths depending on species preference and body size.

Herons, including egrets, Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and Squacco Heron (*Ardeola ralloides*), breed in a mixed colony together with Pygmy Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*) on *Danube islands*, but feed within ROSPA0010 Bistreț. *Herons prefer* muddy shores for foraging, whereas Pygmy Cormorants use open-water areas where fish are abundant.

4. CONSERVATION STATUS OF BIRD SPECIES

The preliminary assessment considered three main components: the reported abundance of bird species, the extent of associated habitats and the pressures potentially affecting birds and their habitats. The information presented in the preceding sections provides an initial basis for evaluating conservation conditions within the monitored area. *Table 3* summarises the pressures identified during the field assessments conducted between October 2025 and June 2026, together with their reported severity and potential impacts on species and habitats.

Table 3. Types of pressures and threats identified during the field assessment and the form of impact caused by each pressure on species and habitats

Code	Code description	Severity	Form of impact on habitat or species
F	**Use of biological resources other than agriculture and forestry**		
F02	Fishing and harvesting of aquatic resources	MEDIUM	PAS
F02.01.01	Fishing with traps, fyke nets, fish traps, etc.	HIGH	PAS
F02.01.02	Net fishing	HIGH	REP, PAS
F02.03	Recreational fishing	LOW	PAS
F02.03.01	Digging for bait / collection	LOW	PAS
F02.03.02	Angling	LOW	PAS
F05.04	Poaching	HIGH	REP, PAS
F05.05	Hunting with firearms	HIGH	REP, PAS
G	**Human intrusions and disturbance**		
G01	Motorised vehicles	MEDIUM	PAS
G01.01	Regular use of motorised vehicles	MEDIUM	PAS
I	**Invasive species, other species-related problems and genes**		
I01	Invasive non-native (alien) species	HIGH	REP
J	**Natural system modifications**		
J01	Fire and fire suppression	HIGH	REP, PAS, PH
J01.01	Fires	HIGH	PH
J02	Human-induced changes to hydraulic systems (wetlands and marine environments)	MEDIUM	PAS
J02.06.01	Surface water abstractions for agriculture	MEDIUM	AH
J02.12	Other changes in hydraulic conditions caused by human activities	MEDIUM	AH
J02.12.02	Reduction or loss of specific habitat features	MEDIUM	PH
K	**Natural biotic and abiotic processes (excluding catastrophes)**		
K01.04	Eutrophication (natural)	MEDIUM	AH

Legend: REP - reduction in population size; PH - loss of natural habitats; AH - habitat alteration; PAS - disturbance of species activity.

Using the data from the previous chapter and the table of currently identified pressures, the overall conservation status of each species can be estimated according to the three indicators.

Table 4 presents the estimated conservation status of the recorded bird species for 2026. However, given the ongoing changes in the use of the basins within the former Bistreț fish-farm complex, conservation status cannot be reliably projected over longer periods (e.g. five years). Such projections would require predictive models accounting for fluctuations in water levels and the expansion of marsh vegetation, which are currently unavailable for the study area.

To determine the prospects of each species, the number of pressures affecting the species or its characteristic habitat was considered, together with the severity of the threat and the type of impact generated on species and habitats. For example, where a species is affected by several impacts that may mainly reduce population size (REP), its prospects may be assessed as UNFAVOURABLE. However, where pressure is medium or low because it occurs temporarily and/or locally within the study area, the species' overall prospects may be assessed as FAVOURABLE.

Table 4. Estimated conservation status of bird species for October 2025- June 2026

No.	Species	Population size (minimum)	Habitat area	Prospects	Overall conservation status
1.	*Accipiter nisus*	1 i.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
2.	*Acrocephalus arundinaceus*	40 p.	510 ha	Good	FV
3.	*Anas clypeata*	10 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
4.	*Anas crecca*	20 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
5.	*Anas penelope*	4 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
6.	*Anas platyrhynchos*	35 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
7.	*Anas strepera*	200 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
8.	*Anas querquedula*	46 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
9.	*Anser albifrons*	70 i.	1260 ha	Good	FV
10.	*Anser anser*	6 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
11.	*Ardea cinerea*	35 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
12.	*Ardea purpurea*	8 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
13.	*Ardeola ralloides*	16 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
14.	*Aythya ferina*	16 p.	1260 ha	Good	FV
15.	*Aythya nyroca*	10 p.	510 ha	Good	FV
16.	*Bubulcus ibis*	1 i.	760 ha	Unknown	N
17.	*Buteo buteo*	2 i.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
18.	*Calidris alba*	80 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
19.	*Calidris alpina*	135 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
20.	*Carduelis carduelis*	6 p.	250 ha	Good	FV
21.	*Casmerodius albus*	20 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
22.	*Charadrius dubius*	12 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
23.	*Chlidonias hybridus*	30 p.	1260 ha	Good	FV
24.	*Ciconia ciconia*	2 i.	760 ha	Good	NFV-I
25.	*Circus aeruginosus*	2 p.	510 ha	Good	FV
26.	*Columba palumbus*	2 p.	250 ha	Good	FV
27.	*Corvus frugilegus*	120 p.	250 ha	Good	FV

28.	*Corvus monedula*	6 i.	250 ha	Good	NFV-I
29.	*Cygnus olor*	30 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
30.	*Egretta garzetta*	30 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
31.	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	2 p.	510 ha	Good	FV
32.	*Falco tinnunculus*	1 i.	250 ha	Unknown	N
33.	*Fulica atra*	125 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
34.	*Gallinula chloropus*	10 p.	510 ha	Good	FV
35.	*Galerida cristata*	6 p.	250 ha	Good	FV
36.	*Haliaeetus albicilla*	1 i.	760 ha	Unknown	NFV-R
37.	*Himantopus himantopus*	16 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
38.	*Hirundo rustica*	400 i.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
39.	*Larus ridibundus*	50 p.	1760 ha	Good	FV
40.	*Limosa limosa*	60 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
41.	*Merops apiaster*	6 p.	250 ha	Good	FV
42.	*Miliaria calandra*	2 p.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
43.	*Motacilla alba*	6 p.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
44.	*Motacilla flava*	25 p.	250 ha	Good	FV
45.	*Numenius arquata*	7 i.	1760 ha	Unknown	NFV-R
46.	*Passer montanus*	5 p.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
47.	*Pelecanus crispus*	15 i.	1260 ha	Good	NFV-R
48.	*Pelecanus onocrotalus*	70 i.	1260 ha	Good	NFV-R
49.	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	8 i.	1760 ha	Good	NFV-R
50.	*Phasianus colchicus*	2 i.	250 ha	Unknown	NFV-I
51.	*Phalacrocorax pygmeus*	30 i.	1760 ha	Good	NFV-R
52.	*Philomachus pugnax*	200 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
53.	*Pica pica*	12 p.	250 ha	Unknown	N
54.	*Platalea leucorodia*	20 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
55.	*Plegadis falcinellus*	60 i.	1760 ha	Good	FV
56.	*Podiceps cristatus*	15 p.	1260 ha	Good	FV
57.	*Recurvirostra avosetta*	880 i.	760 ha	Good	FV

58.	*Sturnus vulgaris*	35 p.	250 ha	Good	NFV-I
59.	*Tadorna tadorna*	5 i.	1760 ha	Unknown	NFV-R
60.	*Tringa erythropus*	2 i.	510 ha	Unknown	NFV-R
61.	*Tringa ochropus*	10 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
62.	*Tringa totanus*	100 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
63.	*Tringa stagnatilis*	30 i.	510 ha	Good	FV
64.	*Tringa sp.*	30 i.	510 ha	Unknown	NFV-R
65.	*Vanellus vanellus*	50 p.	760 ha	Good	FV

Legend: FV - favourable; NVF-I - unfavourable-inadequate (calculated according to habitat conditions); NFV-R - unfavourable-bad (calculated according to the quantitative index for the area of suitable habitat); N - unknown.

Following the analysis of conservation status for the species recorded across the entire ROSPA0010 Bistreț area, 43 bird species were assessed as having favourable conservation status (FV), 10 as having unfavourable-inadequate conservation status (NFV-I), nine as having unfavourable-bad conservation status, and three as having unknown conservation status.

Unknown conservation status was assigned to some of the species mentioned because the area of suitable habitat can provide the necessary conditions for reproduction or for resting during passage, but for unknown reasons (the pressures that may influence the species cannot be determined precisely), the species' future prospects remain unknown. At the same time, the number of individuals or pairs remains low across the entire monitored habitat complex.

Following the bird monitoring activities carried out in 2025-2026, conservation status will be recalculated according to habitat area (if changes occur), as well as according to the existing pressures that remain active or future threats, which will be determined from the continuation of the pressures identified during 2025-2026.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- The monitoring report established the need to monitor bird species within the Natura 2000 site ROSPA0010 Bistreț in relation to fluctuations in water level resulting from permanent dyke works and similar interventions, as well as the installation of nesting platforms on Lakes Cârna and Bistreț;
- A standard wetland monitoring method was proposed, in accordance with the Bird Species Monitoring Guide approved by Ministerial Order No. 1358/2021.
- During the monitoring period (October 2025-June 2026), 47 bird species strictly associated with open-water and marsh habitats and 18 species associated with terrestrial woodland, grassland and scrub habitats were inventoried;
- Three general habitat types were established as the main distribution zones for bird species. *These were* used to determine species presence and abundance according to the area of the habitat types used by the inventoried species;
- The preliminary conservation status of species at regional level was estimated, resulting in 43 species with favourable conservation status. It remains to be determined from year to year whether this conservation status remains valid over a longer period or changes because of habitat alteration or loss caused by hydrological changes in the basins within ROSPA0010 Bistreț;

- Existing pressures, namely net fishing, hunting during the cold season and possibly poaching outside the hunting season, cause major disturbance to both terrestrial and aquatic species. Applying the identified pressures in the conservation assessment increased the number of species with unfavourable-bad conservation status to nine. *Continuation of* these pressures/threats could in the future lead to the complete disappearance of these species from the faunal structure of ROSPA0010 Bistreț;
- Changes resulting from the increase in the open-water surface of Lake Bistreţu and the rise in water level in some adjacent former basins, which remain dry during summer, must also be considered;
- The list of species identified during monthly/seasonal monitoring is not exhaustive. *Other species* not detected during these periods may also be present; therefore, a more detailed analysis will be carried out over the next two years.
- A relatively rare species with accidental occurrence was recorded as a single individual: the Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), in the southern area of the Lake Bistreț dyke. According to https://datazone.birdlife.org/, the nearest broad area of distribution of the species is in the northern Balkan Peninsula, namely northern Turkey, and it is only rarely encountered in the Danube Delta.