

Project Update: February 2008

The Medias Tableland is formed by a mosaic of habitats consisting mostly of forests (on the hilltops), that alternate with the open habitats (along the valleys).

In the field, we used the line transect and point count methods (Bibby, 2000), depending on the accessibility of the study site.

This report is referring especially to open land birds species, but also to those that are characteristic to the flooded area, riparian forest and woodpasture, a great amount of these habitats being currently threatened by the extension of the agricultural fields.

We have recorded 91 bird species in total (Table 1). Because of the large surfaces covered by forests, intertwined with open areas, and the presence of a woodpasture in the area, with singular or grouped multi-secular oaks, besides the typical open land bird species we have recorded several forest species too (Table 1).

Regarding their protection status, 17 of the identified species are protected according to the Birds Directive Annex I (see Table 1), representing 9.71 % out of the total number of species listed as protected in this directive.

Table 1. The identified bird species, their situation in the study area (personal consideration) and their protection status according to the Birds Directive Annex I.

Species	Situation	Birds Directive Annex I
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	G	*
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	G	
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	R	*
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	W	*
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	G	
<i>Buteo buteo</i>	G	
<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	G	
<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	G	
<i>Perdix perdix</i>	G	
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	W	
<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	W	
<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	R	
<i>Porzana porzana</i>	R	*
<i>Crex crex</i>	W	*
<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	R	
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	G	
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	G	
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	R	
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	W	
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	W	
<i>Otus scops</i>	G	
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	R	*
<i>Asio otus</i>	G	
<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	R	*

<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	W	*
<i>Merops apiaster</i>	W	
<i>Upupa epops</i>	W	
<i>Picus viridis</i>	W	
<i>Picus canus</i>	G	*
<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	W	
<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	G	*
<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	W	*
<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	W	
<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	R	*
<i>Jinx torquilla</i>	W	
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	W	
<i>Lullula arborea</i>	W	*
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	G	
<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	W	
<i>Anthus campestris</i>	G	
<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>	G	
<i>Motacilla flava feldegg</i>	G	
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	W	
<i>Lanius collurio</i>	W	*
<i>Lanius minor</i>	W	*
<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	W	
<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	W	
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	W	
<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	W	
<i>Pica pica</i>	W	
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	W	
<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	W	
<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	W	
<i>Corvus corax</i>	W	
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	W	
<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>	W	
<i>Locustella nevia</i>	R	
<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	R	
<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	W	
<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	R	
<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	R	*
<i>Sylvia borin</i>	G	
<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	W	
<i>Sylvia comunis</i>	W	
<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	W	
<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	W	
<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	G	*
<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	R	
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	W	
<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	W	
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	G	
<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>	W	
<i>Turdus merula</i>	W	
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	W	

<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	R	
<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	W	
<i>Parus palustris</i>	W	
<i>Parus coeruleus</i>	W	
<i>Parus major</i>	W	
<i>Aegithalos caudatus caudatus</i>	G	
<i>Aegithalos caudatus europaeus</i>	G	
<i>Sitta europea</i>	W	
<i>Passer montanus</i>	W	
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	W	
<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	W	
<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	W	
<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	W	
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	W	
<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	R	
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	W	
Total 91 species		17 species

Note: R = rare, G = good, W = well represented (common species).

We note that many of the typical forest species, that are rare in the studied habitats (riparian forest, woodpasture), are well represented in the forest habitats (ex. *Columba palumbus*, *Bubo bubo*, *Dryocopus martius*).

From discussions held with locals during the presentations it results that they want to maintain traditional practices, but in the same time they are suspicious regarding the outcomes (on their livelihoods) of the designation of a new protected area.

The children were very enthusiastic in the field work and they also were very interested regarding the conservation strategies of the farmland birds and its habitats.

References

Bibby, C. J., Burgess, N. D., Hill, D. A. and Mustoe, S. (2000). Birds census techniques. Second Edition, Academic Press.