

Avifauna of the National Park Central Balkan

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Summary

This article is a first attempt at clearing the list of the avifauna of the National Park Central Balkan, in its areas and reserves. 277 species of birds are recorded in the Park. 76 species are met in the alpine area, in the reserve: Boatin - 88 sp., Caricina - 93, Kozia stena - 74, Steneto - 104, Stara reka - 110, Djendem - 108, Peeshti skali 86 and Sokolna - 113. There are 153 species in the wooded area and 269 in the prepark area. The birds living in Central Balkan belong to 21 Faunal types, the most numerous being the representatives of the Palearctic Faunal type (33,94%). 88,81% of the species are under the protection of the Law for the Protection of Nature and 29,24% are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria. The National Park Central Balkan is an original refugium, situated in the middle of Bulgaria and numerous rare species of birds are saved there. In the exact, favourable conditions they can inhabit their previous habitats in Bulgaria, as well as in the neighbouring countries.

Zusammenfassung

Dieser Artikel ist ein erster Versuch zur Abklärung der Liste der Avifauna des Nationalparks Zentral-Balkan, in seinen Bereichen und Reservaten. 277 Vogelarten wurden im Park beobachtet. 76 Arten wurden im alpinen Bereich angetroffen, im Reservat Boatin 88 Arten, Caricina 93, Kozia stena 74, Steneto 104, Stara reka 110, Djendem 108, Peeshti skali 86 und Sokolna 113. Es gibt 153 Arten im bewaldeten Bereich und 269 in der Vorpark-Zone. Die Vögel, die im Zentral-Balkan leben, gehören zu 21 Faunatypen, am zahlreichsten sind die Vertreter des Paläarktischen Faunatyps (33,94%). 88,81% der Arten sind durch das Naturschutzgebiet geschützt und 29,24% sind im Roten Buch von Bulgarien enthalten. Der Nationalpark Zentral-Balkan ist ein ursprüngliches Refugium, in der Mitte Bulgariens gelegen, und viele seltene Vogelarten sind hier erhalten. Unter den genau richtigen günstigen Bedingungen können sie ihre bisherigen Habitate in Bulgarien als auch in den benachbarten Ländern bewohnen.

1. Introduction

The National Park Central Balkan was founded on 31.10.1991 on an area of 73 261,8 hectares. It was founded in order to project the complex of self-control ecosystems, habitats of rare and threatened species and the natural complexes, which are of world importance. The National Park includes the alpine and the wooded areas of Sredna Stara Planina, which possessed on its territory some of the best Bulgarian reserves: Boatin (1 597,2 hectares), Caricina (3 273,7 hectares), Kozia stena (904,3 hectares), Steneto (3 578,8 hectares), North Djendem (1 610,0 hectares), South Djendem (4 220,2 hectares), Stara reka (1 974,2 hectares), Peeshtiskali (1 465,7 hectares) and Sokolna (1 250 hectares). It is surrounded with a vast pre-

park area, which reaches the town of Etropole to the west, the town of Gabrovo to the east, towns of Teteven and Trojan to the north and Podbalkanski poleta, on the lands of the towns Srednogorie (Zlaticha and Pirdop), Klisura, Karlovo, Kolofer and Kazanluk to the south.

There is no special publication, aiming to clarify the composition of the avifauna of the National Park Central Balkan. We found the first information about the birds in the region in the article of Otto FINSCH (1859) and the monograph of the Austrian ornithologist Otmar REISER (1894), which is dedicated to the Bulgarian birds. Later there is information in the articles of DONCHEV, S. (1974, 1977), in publications, concerning the reserves: Boatin, Caricina, Steneto, Sokolna (SPIRIDONOV, Z. 1974, 1982a); SPIRIDONOV,



Map of the National Park Central Balkan

----- hired ridge of Stara Planina mountains

_____ borders of National Park

..... borders of biosphere reserves

- - - - - prepark zone



Z. & L. MILEVA 1988; SPIRIDONOV Z. et.al. 1983, 1987; MAJDRAKOVA, I. 1982; MILEVA, L. 1982; GEORGIEVA, D. & I. PANTALEEV 1985), and concerning separate parts of Central Balkan (DRENSKI, P. 1934; SPIRIDONOV, Z. 1982b, 1982c, 1983; GEORGIEV, D. & D. ALEKSANDROV 1988). There is information about the birds recorded in Central Balkan in some other literary sources.

2. Material and Methods

During the summer of 1996 the avifauna of the National Park Central Balkan was explored, along its whole extent from west to east. We also used information from our previous observation. We checked all the literature with records of the birds in the region. The collected information was analysed and classified according to the place of the observation to corresponding areas: alpine, woods, prepark and to the reserves (*Table page 129–142*).

3. Results and Discussion

Till now 277 species have been recorded on the territory of the National Park Central Balkan and its prepark area. They are representatives in the order: Gaviiformes - 2 species, Podicipediformes - 4, Pelecaniformes - 4, Ciconiiformes - 12, Anseriformes - 22, Falconiformes 29, Galliformes 7, Gruiiformes - 8, Charadriiformes - 38, Columbiformes - 5, Cuculiformes 1, Strigiformes - 10, Caprimulgiformes - 1, Apodiformes - 3, Coraciiformes - 4, Piciformes - 10 and Passeriformes - 117. As it could be seen the presence of the orders Passeriformes, Charadriiformes, Falconiformes and Anseriformes is most strongly expressed and they are res-

pectively 42,24%, 13,72%, 10,47% and 7,94% of the species of birds the National Park Central Balkan.

3.1.

76 species of birds, i.e. 27,44% of the species in the park, are recorded in the alpine area of the Park. The quantitative and qualitative composition of the avifauna of this area is very dynamic and various during the different seasons. The Rock Pipit *Anthus spinoletta* is numerous everywhere in the alpine area during the breeding period. On 1 km route reports its number was between 3 and 20 pairs. Its population is most numerous (10–20 pairs) in the region of the cottage Planinski izvory, on the slopes of the summit of Tetevenska baba, the summit of Bulivana, the summit of Bratanicha, on the ridge of the summit of Vejen, on the south slope of the summit of Kozia stena, on the slopes of the summit of Levski, the summits of Maluk and Goliam Kupen, between Krustnuchite and the summit of Kostenurkata, on the ridges of the summit of Jultech, the summit of Mlechni gal, the summit of Botev, the summit of Jurushka gramada and in other places. Numerous nesting species are the Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris* and the Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. The Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*, the Common Wheater *Oenanthe oenanthe*, the Alpine Accentor *Prunella collaris*, the Linnet *Carduelis cannabina* nest in suitable places along the whole alpine area. Interesting is the nesting of the Lawny Pipit *Anthus campestris* in the alpine area in the region of the summit of Kosicha, the summit of Paskal and the summit of Kartala (19.7.1996 – pairs

1	alpine area	5	Steneto	9	Sokolna
2	Boatin	6	Stara reka	10	wood area in and out of the reserves
3	Caricina	7	Djendem		
4	Kozia stena	8	Peesthi skali	11	prepark area

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

<i>Gavia stellata</i>	
Sterntaucher	
<i>G. arctica</i>	
Prachttaucher	
<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	
Haubentaucher	
<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	
Zwergtaucher	
<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	
Schwarzhalstaucher	
<i>P. auritus</i>	
Ohrentaucher	
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	
Kormoran	
<i>Ph. pygmeus</i>	
Zwergscharbe	
<i>Pelecanus onocrotalus</i>	
Rosapelikan	
<i>P. crispus</i>	
Krauskopfpelikan	
<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	
Rohrdommel	
<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	
Zwergdommel	
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	
Nachtreiher	
<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	
Rallenreiher	
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
Seidenreiher	
<i>E. alba</i>	
Silberreiher	
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	
Graureiher	
<i>A. purpurea</i>	
Purpurereiher	
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	
Weißstorch	
<i>C. nigra</i>	
Schwarzstorch	

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Platalea leucorodia

Löffler

•

Plegadis falcinellus

Sichler

•

Cygnus cygnus

Singschwan

•

C. olor

Höckerschwan

•

Anser fabalis

Saatgans

•

A. erythropus

Zwerggans

•

A. albifrons

Bläßgans

•

Branta ruficollis

Rothalsgans

•

Tadorna tadorna

Brandgans

•

T. ferruginea

Rostgans

•

Anas penelope

Pfeifente

•

A. platyrhynchos

Stockente

•

A. strepera

Schnatterente

•

A. acuta

Spießente

•

A. clypeata

Löffelente

•

A. crecca

Krickente

•

A. querquedula

Knäkente

•

Netta rufina

Kolbenente

•

Aythya ferina

Tafelente

•

A. nyroca

Moorenente

•

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A. fuligula

Reiherente

Melanitta fusca

Samtente

Bucephala clangula

Schellente

Mergus albellus

Zwergsänger

Milvus migrans

Schwarzmilan

Gypaetus barbatus

Bartgeier

Neophron percnopterus

Schmutzgeier

Aegypius monachus

Mönchsgeier

Gyps fulvus

Gänsegeier

Circus pygargus

Wiesenweihe

C. macrourus

Steppenweihe

C. cyaneus

Kornweihe

C. aeruginosus

Rohrweihe

Accipiter nisus

Sperber

A. gentilis

Habicht

A. brevipes

Kurzfangsperber

Pernis apivorus

Wespenbussard

Buteo buteo

Mäusebussard

B. rufinus

Adlerbussard

B. lagopus

Rauhfußbussard

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Porzana parva

Kleines Sumpfhuhn

Crex crex

Wachtelkönig

Porzana porzana

Tüpfelsumpftuhen

Rallus aquaticus

Wasserralle

Gallinula chloropus

Teichhuhn

Fulica atra

Blässhuhn

Grus grus

Kranich

Otis tarda

Großtrappe

Haematopus ostralegus

Austernfischer

Burhinus oedicnemus

Triel

Himantopus himantopus

Stelzenläufer

Recurvirostra avosetta

Säbelschnäbler

Glareola pratincola

Rotflügel-Brachschwalbe

Charadrius hiaticula

Sandregenpfeifer

Ch. dubius

Flußregenpfeifer

Pluvialis apricaria

Goldregenpfeifer

Vanellus vanellus

Kiebitz

Calidris ferruginea

Sichelstrandläufer

C. minuta

Zwergstrandläufer

Philomachus pugnax

Kampfläufer

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Numenius arquata

Großer Brachvogel

•

Limosa limosa

Uferschnepfe

•

Tringa totanus

Rotschenkel

•

T. erythropus

Dunkler Wasserläufer

•

T. nebularia

Grünschenkel

• •

T. glareola

Bruchwasserläufer

•

Actitis hypoleucos

Flußuferläufer

• •

Tringa ochropus

Waldwasserläufer

• •

T. stagnatilis

Teichwasserläufer

•

Scolopax rusticola

Waldschnepte

•

Gallinago media

Doppelschnepte

•

G. gallinago

Bekassine

•

Lymnocryptes minimus

Zwergschnepte

•

Stercorarius pomarinus

Spatelraubmöwe

•

Larus melanocephalus

Schwarzkopfmöwe

•

L. genei

Dünnschnabelmöwe

•

L. minutus

Zwergmöwe

•

L. ridibundus

Lachmöwe

•

L. argentatus

Silbermöwe

•

L. fuscus

Heringsmöwe

•

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<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	•
Flußseeschwalbe	
<i>St. albifrons</i>	•
Zwergseeschwalbe	
<i>St. caspia</i>	•
Raubseeschwalbe	
<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	•
Trauerseeschwalbe	
<i>Ch. leucopterus</i>	
Weißflügel-Seeschwalbe	
<i>Ch. hybridus</i>	•
Weißbart-Seeschwalbe	
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	•
Ringeltaube	• • • • • • • • • •
<i>C. oenas</i>	•
Hohltaube	• • • • • • • • •
<i>C. livia</i>	•
Felsentaube	•
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	•
Türkentaube	• •
<i>St. turcica</i>	• •
Turteltaube	• • • • • • • •
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	•
Kuckuck	• • • • • • • •
<i>Tyto alba</i>	•
Schleiereule	
<i>Asio flammea</i>	•
Sumpfohreule	
<i>A. otus</i>	
Waldohreule	•
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	•
Uhu	• • • • • • • •
<i>Strix aluco</i>	
Waldkauz	• •
<i>St. uralensis</i>	•
Habichtskauz	• • •
<i>Glaucidium passerinum</i>	
Sperlingskauz	• •
<i>Aegolius funereus</i>	
Rauhfußkauz	• • •

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<i>Alauda arvensis</i>											
Feldlerche	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Lullula arborea</i>											
Heidelerche	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Galerida cristata</i>											
Haubenlerche						•		•	•	•	•
<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>											•
Kurzzehenlerche											
<i>Melanocorypha calandra</i>											
Kalanderlerche											•
<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>											
Ohrenlerche	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>											
Felsenschwalbe	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Riparia riparia</i>											
Uferschwalbe	•					•			•	•	•
<i>Hirundo daurica</i>											
Rötelschwalbe	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>H. rustica</i>											
Rauchschwalbe	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Delichon urbica</i>											
Mehlschwalbe	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Anthus spinolella</i>											
Bergpieper	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>A. trivialis</i>											
Baumpieper	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>A. pratensis</i>											
Wiesenpieper											•
<i>A. cervinus</i>											
Rotkehlpieper											•
<i>A. campestris</i>											
Brachpieper		•								•	•
<i>Motacilla alba</i>											
Bachstelze		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>M. cinerea</i>											
Gebirgsstelze	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>M. flava</i>											
Schafstelze											•
<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>											
Seidenschwanz				•					•	•	•

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<i>Ciclus cinclus</i>										
Wasseramsel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>										
Zaunkönig	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Prunella modularis</i>										
Heckenbraunelle	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>P. collaris</i>										
Alpenbraunelle	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>										
Rotkehlchen	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Luscinia luscinia</i>										
Sprosser									•	•
<i>L. megarhynchos</i>										
Nachtigall						•	•	•	•	•
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>										
Gartenrotschwanz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Ph. ochruros</i>										
Hausrotschwanz	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>										
Braunkehlchen	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>S. torquata</i>										
Schwarzkehlchen	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>										
Steinschmätzer	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Oe. isabellina</i>										
Isabellsteinschmätzer										•
<i>Oe. hispanica</i>										
Mittelmeer-Steinschmätzer								•	•	•
<i>Monticola saxatilis</i>										
Steinrötel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Turdus torquatus</i>										
Ringdrossel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>Turdus merula</i>										
Amsel	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
<i>T. pilaris</i>										
Wacholderdrossel								•	•	•
<i>T. iliacus</i>										
Rotdrossel									•	•
<i>T. philomelos</i>										
Singdrossel			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

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Lanius collurio

Neuntöter

L. minor

Schwarzstirnwürger

L. excubitor

Raubwürger

L. senator

Rotkopfwürger

Sturnus vulgaris

Star

Sturnus roseus

Rosenstar

Oriolus oriolus

Pirol

Garrulus glandarius

Eichelhäher

Nucifraga caryocatactes

Tannenhäher

Pica pica

Elster

Pyrrhocorax graculus

Alpendohle

Corvus monedula

Dohle

C. corax

Kolkkrabe

C. corone cornix

Nebelkrähe

C. frugilegus

Saatkrähe

Passer montanus

Feldsperling

P. domesticus

Haussperling

P. hispaniolensis

Weidensperling

Fringilla coelebs

Buchfink

F. montifringilla

Bergfink

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feeding young ones outside of the nests) and the records on the same day of 4 Pallid Swifts *Apus pallidus* together with 4 Common Swifts *Apus apus* near the cottage Planinski izvory. In the second part of the summer the list of the avifauna of the alpine area is enriched with species, wandering after the nesting and concentrating on the alpine meadows and in the upper frontier of the woods, where there is enough food, mostly insects (a large quantity of grasshoppers from different species), fruits (Whortleberry, Red Whortleberry, Raspberry) and seeds. During this season there are a great number of species: the Rock Pipit (flocks up to 25 specimen), the Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*, the Skylark *Alauda arvensis* the Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*, the Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*, the Yellow Hammer *Emberiza citrinella*, the Blackbird *Turdus merula*, the Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus* and others. During summer hundreds of Quails *Coturnix coturnix* and flocks of Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix* move from the plains to the meadows in the woods and the alpine areas. During September – October all these species move to the prepark area to the food of the mountain or accomplish distant horizontal migrations. Although it is rare, flocks of Grey Partridge remain in the alpine area during winter. According to the words of the master of the cottage Planinski izvory (1 960 m) during the winter of 1995/1996 about 10 partridges fed on the dung in the cottage's yard.

Stara Planina is not a barrier for the migrating birds. Flock of 15 White Storks *Ciconia ciconia* flew from south to north over the summit of Jumruka (1 819 m) on 29.5.1996,

when the mountain was still covered with snow. During spring, summer and autumn flocks or single migrating birds flew over all the passes. Still in the middle of the summer the migration of the swallows *Delichon urbica*, *Hirundo rustica*, *Hirundo daurica*, *Riparia riparia* is intensive, especially in the region of the cottage Planinski izvory, under the summit of Pupa, on Gorni Vetrovity Preslap, in the saddle Platneshki Jarove, in the saddle between Maluk and Goliam Kuppen, in the ridge between Krustnichite and the summit of Kosternurkata, in the pass between the summit of Kosternurkata and the summit of Jultech, in the saddle near the shelter Botev. A single Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* flies together with the swallows. During this period numerous flocks of Bee-eater *Merops apiaster* fly over the highest parts of the mountain with destination from northwest to southwest.

3.2.

88 species - 31,77% of the composition of the avifauna in Central Balkan are recorded in the reserve Boatin. According to SPIRIDONOV, Z. et.al. (1983) nearly 90% of the reserve's area is taken by venerable beech forests, above which (between 1 500 and 1 800 m) a compact spruce belt stretches. From 1 800 m to 2 500 m plantations of *Pinus mugo* and leafless alpine area are found. Dominant bird species in the beech woods are the Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, the Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, the Robin *Erithacus rubecula*, the Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*, the Nuthatch *Sitta europaea* and the Great Tit *Parus major*. Rare birds of the Bulgarian avifauna such as: Ural Owl *Strix uralensis*, Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva* and others nest there.

3.3.

The list of the birds recorded in the reserve Caricina numbers 93 species (33,57% of the avifauna of the National Park). The only find in Stara Planina of the Balkan endemic *Pinus peuce* is in Caricina. The reserve stretches between 900 m altitude, the woods are formed in 2 belts: first-beech and compound beech-fir grove and the second-woods of spruce and *Pinus peuce*. Above them there are loose coniferous forests, junipers and alpine meadows. The avifauna of Caricina does not differ from that one of the reserve Boatin (SPIRIDONOV, Z. et. at. 1987). Nearly the same species are dominant. The Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus* is most numerous in the coniferous woods. The reserve is a hopeful shelter for 6 species: Pygmy Owl *Glaucidium passerinum*, Ural Owl, Tengmalm's Owl *Aegolius funereus*, Hazel Grouse *Bonasa bonasia*, White-backed Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*. The Red-breasted Flycatcher and the Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* are not recorded in Caricina at all, which according to SPIRIDONOV, Z. et.al. (1987) is due to the mass cut down of the woods during the last 3 000 years and to the fact that the fir groves were partly changed with beech ones.

3.4.

There are few ornithological observations in the reserve Kozia stena. 74 species are recorded there (26,71% of the avifauna of the National Park). The reserve unifies venerable beech and fir forests, growing on difficult of access and rocky places. Common for this reserve are the Chiff-chaff *Phylloscopus collybitus*, the Blackbird, the Mistle Thrush, the Ring Ousel, the Robin, the Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*, the Chaffinch *Fringilla*

coelebs, the Dunnock *Prunella modularis*, the Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus* and others. In the upper parts of the reserve there are numerous the Rock Pipit and the Alpine Accentor. From the Birds of Prey we recorded are the Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*, the Buzzard *Buteo buteo*, the Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* and others.

3.5.

Until now 104 bird species (37,55%) are recorded in the reserve Steneto. There the beech forests take nearly 2 000 hectares, and the spruce belt is the biggest one in Sredna Stara Planina. According to SPIRIDONOV, Z. & L. MILEVA (1988) half of the 82 species, recorded there during the breeding period, are threatened or vulnerable in national or world-wide importance. Among them are the Golden Eagle, the Longlegged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, the Saker *Falco cherrug*, the Ural Owl, the Pygmy Owl, the Black Woodpecker, the White-backed Woodpecker and the Grey-headed Green Woodpecker *Picus canus*, the Red-breasted Flycatcher and others. The Tengmalm's Owl was recorded during the nesting period (STOJANOV, G. - by word of mouth).

3.6.

The reserve Stara reka, above town Karlovo, is composed of beech, fir and spruce woods. The Golden Eagle, the Peregrine, the Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*, the Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, the Stock Dove *Columba oenas* live there (STOLOV, D. 1984). The whole list of the birds, recorded in it, includes 110 species (39,73%). Numerous are the Robin, the Coal Tit *Parus ater*, the Chiffchaff, the Chaffinch, the Blackcap, the Mistle Thrush, the Wren. Numerous in the

upper frontier of the forest are the Rock Pipit, the Shorelark, the Alpine Accentor, the Ring Ousel, the Black Redstart. During the last years there is an increase in number of the Buzzard and the Golden Eagle. The Griffon vulture *Gyps fulvus*, the Egyptian vulture *Neophron percnopterus*, the Levant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter brevipes*, the Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*, the Wallcreeper *Tichodroma muraria* and other rare species are recorded there (STOJANOV, G. - by word of mouth).

3.7.

The reserve Djendem ist united with the reserve North Djendem in one and because of that we observe it as one. This reserve includes vast forests, growing in difficult of access plains, rocky massive and abysses. The oak forests are on the lower parts of the reserve and the fir and spruce plantations – on the slopes. The alpine flora is represented by 80 species of grass (POPOV 1980). The saved, virgin nature and the variety of the landscape make suitable conditions for the birds' feeding and nesting, there live 107 species (38,99% of the avifauna of Central Balkan). Numerous nesting species are the Chaffinch, the Chiffchaff, the Robin, the Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, the Firecrest, the Blackcap, the Mistle Thrush, the Blackbird, the Wood Pigeon and others, and in the alpine area of the reserve – the Rock Pipit, the Alpine Accentor, the Shore Lark, the Black Redstart, the Sky Lark. Also nesting in the reserve are the Honey Buzzard, the Golden Eagle, the Imperial Eagle, the Booted Eagle *Hieraetus pennatus*, the Sparrowhawk, the Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, the Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, the Peregrine, the Saker and others.

3.8.

The reserve Peeshhti skali is comparatively weakly studied in ornithological sense. It was founded in order to project the venerable beech forests. The list of the birds recorded there has 86 species (31,05%). Dominant species are the Chaffinch, the Robin, the Great Tit and the Wren. From the Birds of Prey there live the Honey Buzzard, the Golden Eagle, the Buzzard, the Kestrel, the Peregrine, the Saker, the Goshawk and the Sparrowhawk. Also nesting are the Scops Owl *Otus scops*, the Wallcreeper, the Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*, the Rock Thrush *Monticola saxatilis*.

3.9.

The beech forests are the main tree plantation in the reserve Sokolna. 113 species are recorded there (40,79% of the birds in the National Park). The nesting avifauna is mainly of the Chaffinch, the Chiffchaff, the Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*, the Blackbird, the Mistle Thrush. The Black Kite *Milvus migrans*, the Short-toed Eagle *Circaetus gallicus*, the Booted Eagle, the Hazel Grouse, the Stock Dove, the Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, the Wallcreeper and the Gray Martin *Hirundo rupestris* are recorded there during the nesting period. Also nesting are the Raven *Corvus corax*, the Longeared Owl *Asio otus*, the White-backed Woodpecker, the Wood Pigeon, the Kestrel, the Buzzard, the Woodlark *Lullula arborea*, the Red-Backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*, the Linnet and others. The stock of the Alpine Chough reaches 40–50 specimen. The Three-toed Woodpecker *Picoides tridactylus* was found there (GEORGIEVA, D. & I. PANTALEEV, 1985).

3.10.

Along the whole territory of the National Park Central Balkan vast wooded masses rest out of the reserve. These masses are of beech, different species of oak, hornbeam, spruce, silver fir and other tree plantations. The huge space, which they cover, the tessellated landscape and the different altitudes on which they grow, are a precondition for the big variety of species of birds. 153 species live in the wooded area, i.e. more than half of the species (55,23%) recorded in Central Balkan. Numerous are the Chaffinch, the Chiffchaff, the Robin, the Wren, the Goldcrest and the Firecrest, the Blackcap, the Coal Tit, the Dunnock, the Blackbird, the Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* and the Mistle Thrush. During the past century Otto FINSCH (1859) found „in Sredna Stara Planina, near a forest brook“ a nesting pair of Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*. During the migrations, especially in autumn, in the wooded area of the mountain passes huge concentrations of migrants are formed, before crossing the central mountain range. For example on 23.IX.1995 Peter SHURULINKOV, Boris NIKOLOV, Asen ROGEV and Rosen CHONEV watched 150 Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and 2 Montagu's Harriers *Circus pygargus* flying away from an oak forest in the Trojanski prohod, near the cottage Chuchul at 1 600 m altitude.

3.11.

Except woods and rock formations, vast leafless regions, cultivated fields and villages get into the prepark area of the National Park Central Balkan. This area is the richest one in birds. Most of the species, recorded in the Park (269 species or 97,11%) are found there. Common and numerous in the villages

are the sinanthropic species, such as the House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*, the Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*, the Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*, the Swallow, the House Martin, the Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*, the Chaffinch, the Greenfinch, the Blackbird and the Great Tit. Birds, nesting in the low parts of the mountain and those accomplishing vertical migration and coming down from the alpine and the wooded areas could be met there. Numerous are those species which during migrations and during the winter come along the south and the north foots of Stara Planina. 120 of the species of the National Park Central Balkan are only in the prepark area. Representatives of whole orders, such as Caviiformes, Podicipediformes, Pelecaniformes and Anseriformes, visit the National Park only in its prepark area.

Birds, which live in the National Park Central Balkan, belong to 21 Faunal types (according to VOOUS', K. classification, 1960). the most (94 species or 33,94%) are the representatives of the Palearctic Faunal type - birds, belonging to the fauna of the cold, temperate and subtropical regions of the northern half of the Old World. These are the numerous for Central Balkan species (Rock Pipit, Sky Lark, Chiffchaff, Goldcrest, Blackbird, Great Tit, Coal Tit and many others, as well as the vanishing and the rare inhabitants Griffon Vulture, Imperial Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle *Aquila pomarina*, Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*, Black Woodpecker, White-backed Woodpecker and others). On second place (29 species or 10,47%) are the representatives of the Holarctic Faunal type. These are the numerous Firecrest, the Wren, the Shore Lark and also the Red Crossbill

Loxia curvirostra, the Raven, the Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, the Golden Eagle and others. On third place are the species of the European Faunal type (24 species or 8,66%) - Chaffinch, Robin, Blackcap, Dunnock, Woodlark, Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*, Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*, Green Woodpecker *Picus viridus*, Honey Buzzard and others. The Next Faunal type in the National Park Central Balkan is as follow: European - Turkestanian - 8,3%; Fauna of the Old World - 6,14%; Turkestanian - Mediterranean - 5,42%; Arctic - Cosmopolitan and Mediterranean - at 3,61% each; Siberian - 3,25%; Indian - African - 2,89%; Sarmatic and Palaeomontane - at 2,14% each; Mongolian - Tibexian, Siberian - Canadian and Palaeo - Xeromontane - at 1,08% each; Palaeoxeric and Turkestanian - at 0,72% each; Ethiopian, Nearctic and Unknown Faunal types - at 0,36% each.

Only 31 species of the avifauna of Central Balkan are not protected. The rest 246 species or 88,81% of the birds are under protection of the law. 81 species (29,24%) are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria in the categories: vanished (vanishing) - 6 species. (Among them are the Lammergeier *Gypaetus barbatus*, the Black Vulture *Aegypius monachus*, the Pygmy Owl); threatened with extinction - 52 species (Griffon Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, Imperial Eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, Honey Buzzard, Saker, Peregrine, Eagle Owl and others); rare - 23 species (Golden Eagle, Tengmalm's Owl, Ural Owl, White-backed Woodpecker, Black

Woodpecker and others). Threatened in Europa are 11 species (among them are the Lammergeier, the Egyptian Vulture, the Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, the Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, the Imperial Eagle, the Saker, the Semi-Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula semitorquata*, vulnerable - 47 species; rare - 10; diminishing - 33. 176 species are with favourable status. The National Park Central Balkan is an original refugium, situated in the middle of Bulgaria, and numerous rare bird species are saved there. In the exact, favourable conditions they can inhabit their previous habitats in Bulgaria, as well as in the neighbouring countries.

One of the main purposes of this article ist to make clear, at this stage of the observation, the list of the species of birds in the different regions and the reserves in the National Park Central Balkan. We hope that this article will be a motive for future, more regular observations of the National Park and its separate parts. This will lead to an increase in the list of the species as well as to an increase of the knowledge of the biology of the birds and will help for the better protection of the natural wealth of Central Balkan.

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