

## RESULTS REGARDING THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MUSEUM ITEMS FROM THE ORNITHOLOGICAL COLLECTION OF THE OLTENIA MUSEUM (ROMANIA)

RIDICHE Mirela Sabina

**Abstract.** The classification of museum items is an important component of the scientific research of museum heritage. In its collections, the Section of Natural Sciences of the Oltenia Museum Craiova has many items of historical and documentary-scientific value. The classification of these items in the Fund and Thesaurus categories (N. C. H.) represents a significant part of the scientific activity of specialists certified as experts by the Ministry of Culture, which coordinates the activity of the museum institutions. In order to classify heritage items, two categories of classification criteria are taken into consideration: general (age, frequency, state of preservation) and specific (historical or documentary value, memorial value, authenticity, author, workshop or school, formal quality). These criteria were developed by the Ministry of Culture with the approval of the National Commission of Museums and Collections. A significant part of the classified items belongs to the ornithology collection (8 pieces in the Thesaurus category and 134 items in the Fund category) and another 50 items from this collection are in the classification process. The classified pieces, as well as those in the process of classification, mainly represent valuable species for the avifauna of Romania, which, in terms of conservation of natural ecosystems, are rare species or species experiencing population decline or vulnerable to the pressure of anthropogenic factors. At the same time, some of these species are included in the Red Book of Vertebrates from Romania. From a taxonomic point of view, the ornithological items under discussion are represented by 94 species, respectively 74 genera from 37 families and 16 orders.

**Keywords:** classification, museum items, ornithological collection, Oltenia Museum Craiova.

### **Rezumat. Rezultate privind clasarea bunurilor muzeale din colecția ornitologică a Muzeului Olteniei (România).**

Clasarea bunurilor muzeale este o componentă importantă a cercetării științifice a patrimoniului muzeal. Secția de Științele Naturii a Muzeului Olteniei Craiova deține în colecțiile sale multe bunuri cu valoare istorică și documentar-științifică, fapt pentru care clasarea acestora în categoriile Fond și Tezaur ale patrimoniului cultural național (P. C. N.), reprezintă o parte semnificativă din activitatea științifică a specialiștilor atestați ca experți de către Ministerul Culturii, în subordinea căruia se află instituțiile muzeale. În vederea clasării bunurilor de patrimoniu se iau în considerare două categorii de criterii de clasificare: generale (vechimea, frecvența, starea de conservare) și specifice (valoarea istorică sau documentară, valoarea memorială, autenticitatea, autorul, atelierul sau școala, calitatea formală), elaborate de Ministerul Culturii, cu avizul Comisiei Naționale a Muzeelor și Colecțiilor. O bună parte din bunurile clasate la Muzeul Olteniei aparțin colecției de ornitologie (8 piese în categoria Tezaur și 134 bunuri în categoria Fond), iar alte 50 de bunuri din această colecție se află în procedură de clasare. Piesele clasate, precum și cele în curs de clasare reprezintă, în mare majoritate, specii valoroase din avifauna României, care, din punct de vedere al conservării în ecosistemele naturale, au statut de specii rare sau în declin populațional ori sunt specii vulnerabile la presiunea factorilor antropici. Totodată, unele dintre acestea reprezintă specii incluse în Cartea Roșie a Vertebratelor din România. Din punct de vedere taxonomic bunurile ornitologice luate în discuție sunt reprezentate de 94 de specii, respectiv 74 de genuri din 37 de familii și 16 ordine.

**Cuvinte cheie:** clasare, bunuri muzeale, colecția ornitologică, Muzeul Olteniei Craiova.

## INTRODUCTION

Heritage quality and diversity has always been fundamental for building the status of a museum institution, implicitly in case of the Oltenia Museum which, based on this consideration, acquired the status of a museum of national importance, following the Government meeting of May 17, 2023 ( <sup>xxx</sup> GOVERNMENT DECISION no. 450/2023 with a single article).

In order to highlight collections or museum assets, the research activity is paramount and, in this sense, besides the activities of inventorying, systematizing, and describing each museum item, the specialists – in this case museographers – have to process, to organize the information contained in each object and then to transfer the important data regarding the owned items to the interested public, as intelligibly as possible. The main ways of promoting the museum scientific message are: catalogues and scientific works (papers, journals, volumes), national/international scientific conferences, exhibitions, and cultural-educational activities.

An important component of the scientific research of a museum heritage is the activity of Classification of museum items in accordance with the legal norms in force. As known, in order to classify these items, two categories of classification criteria are taken into consideration: general (age, frequency, state of preservation) and specific (historical or documentary value, memorial value, authenticity, author, workshop or school, formal quality). These criteria were developed by the Ministry of Culture, with the approval of the National Commission of Museums and Collections ( <sup>xxx</sup> LAW no. 182/2000, with subsequent amendments and additions).

The Section of Natural Sciences of the Oltenia Museum owns many items of historical and documentary-scientific value in its collections. These items represent material evidence of the biological and mineralogical diversity and of the evolution of the natural environment, a fact for which their Classification in the Fund and Thesaurus categories of the national cultural heritage (N. C. H.) represents a significant part of the scientific activity of the museographers certified as experts by the Ministry of Culture and who are enrolled in the General Register of Experts for N. C. H.

The classification operations began in 2008 and continue at present as well. For this purpose, the DOCPAT computer programme provided by the National Heritage Institute subordinated to the Ministry of Culture is used (<https://cimec.ro/patrimoniu-mobil/docpat/>). Most of the classified cultural items belong to the ornithology collection (8 pieces in the Thesaurus category and 134 items in the Fund category) and other 50 items from this collection are in the classification process. The classified pieces, as well as those in the process of classification, represent, in their vast majority, valuable species for the avifauna of Romania, with a real documentary-scientific importance. From the point of view of conservation in natural ecosystems, they are rare species or species experiencing population decline or species vulnerable to the pressure of anthropogenic factors. At the same time, some of them are included in the Red Book of Vertebrates from Romania (MUNTEANU, 2005) or are currently under the protection of many national laws or international conventions.

### MATERIAL AND WORKING METHODS

192 pieces/items from the ornithological collection of the Oltenia Museum are under discussion. 142 of these items have already undergone the procedure of classification in the national cultural heritage and 50 items are undergoing the classification process. From a taxonomic point of view, the analysed specimens belong to 16 orders and 37 families and they are represented by 94 species of birds, respectively 74 genera (Table 1). The systematic list of species is rendered in Table 2; information can be found regarding the place and date of collection, the category in N. C. H., the method of preparation, and the related inventory number for each represented specimen. For the present study, the systematic classification and the nomenclature of the species was achieved according to Avibase – the world bird database (<sup>xxx</sup> [avibase.bsc-eoc.org](http://avibase.bsc-eoc.org)).

Table 1. Taxonomic classification of the ornithological items of the Oltenia Museum, classified in the *Fund* and *Thesaurus* categories of the national cultural heritage.

No. sps.	Order	Family	Genus	No. species
48	ANSERIFORMES	ANATIDAE	<i>Anser, Branta, Tadorna, Mareca, Anas, Spatula, Aythya, Mergus</i>	15
2	GALLIFORMES	PHASIANIDAE	<i>Tetrao, Alectoris</i>	2
1	PHOENICOPTERIFORMES	PHOENICOPTERIDAE	<i>Phoenicopterus</i>	1
3	PODICIPEDIFORMES	PODICIPEDIDAE	<i>Tachybaptus, Podiceps</i>	2
1	CUCULIFORMES	CUCULIDAE	<i>Cuculus</i>	1
2	GRUIFORMES	RALLIDAE	<i>Zapornia, Crex</i>	2
3	OTIDIFORMES	OTIDIDAE	<i>Tetrax, Otis</i>	2
5	GAVIIFORMES	GAVIIDAE	<i>Gavia</i>	2
27	PELECANIFORMES	CICONIIDAE	<i>Ciconia</i>	2
		PHALACROCORACIDAE	<i>Phalacrocorax, Microcarbo</i>	2
		ARDEIDAE	<i>Botaurus, Ixobrychus, Nycticorax, Ardeola, Ardea</i>	5
		THRESKIORNITIDAE	<i>Plegadis, Platalea</i>	2
18	CHARADRIIFORMES	BURHINIDAE	<i>Burhinus</i>	1
		RECURVIROSTRIDAE	<i>Himantopus, Recurvirostra</i>	2
		CHARADRIIDAE	<i>Vanellus,</i>	1
		SCOLOPACIDAE	<i>Calidris, Scolopax, Numenius, Tringa</i>	4
		GLAREOLIDAE	<i>Glareola</i>	1
	LARIDAE	<i>Hydroprogne</i>	1	
25	ACCIPITRIFORMES	ACCIPITRIDAE	<i>Pernis, Haliaeetus, Aegyptius, Circus, Accipiter, Buteo, Aquila</i>	11
16	STRIGIFORMES	TYTONIDAE	<i>Tyto</i>	1
		STRIGIDAE	<i>Athene, Strix, Asio</i>	5
7	PICIFORMES	PICIDAE	<i>Picus, Dryocopus, Dendrocopos</i>	4
6	CORACIIFORMES	ALCEDINIDAE	<i>Alcedo</i>	1
		MEROPIIDAE	<i>Merops</i>	1
		CORACIIDAE	<i>Coracias</i>	1
6	FALCONIFORMES	FALCONIDAE	<i>Falco</i>	2
22	PASSERIFORMES	ORIOIIDAE	<i>Oriolus</i>	1
		CORVIDAE	<i>Garrulus, Coleus</i>	2
		PRUNELLIDAE	<i>Prunella</i>	1
		FRINGILLIDAE	<i>Carduelis, Pyrrhula, Coccothraustes</i>	4
		EMBERIZIDAE	<i>Emberiza</i>	3
		ALAUDIDAE	<i>Calandrella</i>	1
		PHYLLOSCOPIDAE	<i>Phylloscopus</i>	1
		TIMALIIDAE	<i>Panurus</i>	1
		BOMBYCILLIDAE	<i>Bombycilla</i>	1
		STURNIDAE	<i>Sturnus</i>	1
	TURDIDAE	<i>Oenanthe, Erithacus, Monticola, Turdus</i>	4	

Table. 2. The systematic and analytical list of the classified ornithological pieces (8 in the THESAURUS category + 134 in the FUND category) and those in the process of being classified in the FUND category of N.C.H.

No.	Name	No. of specimens	Place of collection (locality, county)	Date of collection	Category N. C. H.	Preparation technique	Inventory no.
1	<i>Anser fabalis</i> (Latham, 1787) - Bean Goose	1	Becicherecul Mic – Tm	02.10.1920	FUND	TM	113/1287
2	<i>Anser albifrons</i> (Scopoli, 1769) - White-Fronted Goose	4	Mihăița – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Răcari – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj.	25.02.1985 10.11.1996 03.03.1998 12.11.2004	FUND	TM	21030 40552 44598 52331
3	<i>Branta ruficollis</i> (Pallas, 1769) - Red-Breasted Goose	3	Corabia – Ot. Bistreț – Dj. Fântânele – Dj.	01.12.1953 26.11.1963 13.01.1997	THESAURUS FUND FUND	TM	1012/9834 4073/16203 40586
4	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i> (Pallas, 1764) - Ruddy Shelduck	1	Ciutura – Dj.	30.04.1990	FUND	TM	27184
5	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Shelduck	5	Jurilovca – Tl. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj.	26.05.1925 11.01.1995 18.12.2008 10/12/2016 10/12/2016	FUND	TM	115/1289 37910 54719 <sup>xx</sup> 55690 55691
6	<i>Mareca (Anas) penelope</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Eurasian Wigeon	3	Buzău – Bz. Ciupercenii Vechi – Dj. Ciupercenii Vechi – Dj.	05.1924 28.02.1978 09.03.1983	FUND	TM	122/1297 6582 11124
7	<i>Anas crecca</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Common Teal	2	Dunăreni – Dj Măceșu de Sus	05.10.2000 25.02.2003	FUND	TM	46632 <sup>x</sup> 48588 <sup>x</sup>
8	<i>Anas acuta</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Pintail	5	Terpezița – Dj. Măceșu de Jos – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Măceșu de Jos – Dj.	02.03.1983 18.02.2000 27.02.2002 09.04.2003 18.02.2000	FUND	TM	11127 44998 47650 48585 44999 <sup>x</sup>
9	<i>Spatula (Anas) querquedula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Garganey	2	Lunca Dunării Tunari – Dj.	15.03.2004 16.03.1982	FUND	TM	49759 <sup>x</sup> 10037 <sup>x</sup>
10	<i>Spatula (Anas) clypeata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Shoveler	4	Craiova – Dj. Zănoaga, Leu - Dj Ișalnița – Dj. Ciutura – Dj.	03.03.1962 17.11.1972 12.02.1985 30.04.1990	FUND	TM	4001/15430 5308/30480 <sup>xx</sup> 21018 27183
11	<i>Aythya ferina</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Pochard	1	Măceșu de Jos – Dj.	20.03.2004	FUND	TM	49763 <sup>xx</sup>
12	<i>Aythya nyroca</i> (Güldenstädt, 1770) - Ferruginous Duck	6	Coțofeni – Dj. Gura Văii – Dj. Bistreț (Balta Călugăreni) – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Măceșu – Dj.	15.03.1982 21.03.1984 23.10.1996 03.04.1997 30.03.2005 30.03.2005	FUND		10036 17997 38773 40560 52333 52335
13	<i>Mergus albellus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Smew	5	Vinga – Ar. Ișalnița – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Craiova (Jiu) – Dj.	26.02.1922 20.02.1985 22.09.1998 10.02.2001 13.01.2008	FUND	TM	128/1304 21020 40559 46633 54722
14	<i>Mergus serrator</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Red-breasted Merganser	1	Giroc – Tm.	09.11.1924	FUND	TM	127/1303
15	<i>Mergus merganser</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Goosander	5	Timișoara – Tm. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Bistreț – Dj.	02.03.1924 15.01.1996 18.03.1996 06.10.1996 07.02.2000	FUND	TM	125/1301 38764 38774 38775 45000
16	<i>Tetrao urogallus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Eurasian Capercaillie	1	Vatra Dornei – Sv.	20.04.1960	FUND	TM	3642/14747
17	<i>Alectoris graeca</i> (Meisner, 1804) - Rock Partridge	1	Coronini – Cs.	11.11.1912	FUND	TM	161/1346
18	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber roseus</i> Pallas, 1811 - Greater Flamingo	1	Bistreț – Dj.	10/12/2016	FUND	TM	55693
19	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> (Pallas, 1764) - Little Grebe	2	Bistreț – Dj Măceșu de Sus	8.10.1996 06.12.2004	FUND	TM	38772 <sup>x</sup> 52337 <sup>x</sup>
20	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i> (Boddaert, 1783) - Red-necked Grebe	1	Turda – Cj.	20.03.1960	FUND	TM	3635/14726
21	<i>Cuculus canorus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Cuckoo	1	Șimnicul de Jos – Dj.	11.08.2002	FUND	TM	48611 <sup>xx</sup>
22	<i>Zapornia (Porzana) parva</i> (Scopoli, 1769) - Little Crane	1	Bistreț – Dj.	25.08.2001	FUND	TM	46650 <sup>x</sup>
23	<i>Crex crex</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Corn Crane	1	Malu Mare – Dj.	15.10.2013	FUND		55397

24	<i>Tetrax tetrax</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Little Bustard	1	Comloșul Mare – Tm.	07.12.1921	THESAURUS	TM	153/1336
25	<i>Otis tarda</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Great Bustard	2	Seaca de Câmp – Dj. Rast – Dj.	29.09.1930 22.04.1930	FUND	TROPHY	151/1334 152/1335
26	<i>Gavia stellata</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763) - Red-throated Diver	2	Giroc – Tm. Giroc – Tm	13.11.1921 13.11.1921	FUND	TM	134/1312 135/1313
27	<i>Gavia arctica</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Black-throated Diver	3	Utvin – Tm. Coșofeni – Dj. Calafat – Dj.	12.11.1921 12.10.1972 20.11.1979	FUND	TM	133/1311 5310/30482 6841
28	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - White Stork	1	Tâmburești – Dj.	22.07.1978	FUND	TM	6580
29	<i>Ciconia nigra</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Black Stork	1	Bistreț – Dj.	13.01.2004	FUND	TM	9757
30	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i> (Blumenbach, 1798) - Cormorant	3	Cârna (Dunăreni) – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Măceșu	10.03.2001 17.02.2002 25.11.2007	FUND	TM	46617 <sup>xx</sup> 47642 54718 <sup>x</sup>
31	<i>Microcarbo (Phalacrocorax) pygmaeus</i> (Pallas, 1773) - Pygmy Cormorant	2	Craiova – Dj. Bistreț - Dj	29.01.2002 10/12/2016	FUND	TM	47646 55688
32	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Great Bittern	6	Ișalnița – Dj. Craiova – Dj. Teasc-Secui – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj.	10.12.1975 09.09.1986 02.03.1982 03.04.1997 10/12/2016 10/12/2016	FUND	TM	5494/40418 24415 <sup>xx</sup> 10047 40575 55696 55697
33	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) - Little Bittern	2	Gr. Botanică Craiova – Dj. Bistreț – Dj.	20.08.1979 25.08.2001	FUND	TM	6838 <sup>xx</sup> 46628
34	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Night-Heron	3	Coșoveni – Dj. Bratovoiești – Dj. Murgași – Dj.	02.09.1977 15.05.1983 25.09.1996	FUND	TM	6501 11122 38779
35	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i> (Scopoli, 1769) - Squacco Heron	1	Bistreț – Dj	25.08.2001	FUND	TM	46627 <sup>xx</sup>
36	<i>Ardea alba</i> (Linnaeus), 1758 - Great White Egret	5	Dunăreni – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Cernele – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj.	27.11.2000 19.11.2000 02.03.2001 10/12/2016 10/12/2016	FUND	TM	46621 46622 47648 55694 55695
37	<i>Ardea cinerea</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Grey Heron	1	Bistreț – Dj.	16.11.1991	FUND	TM	27194 <sup>xx</sup>
38	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) - Glossy Ibis	1	Satchinez – Tm.	24.08.1925	FUND	TM	104/1274
39	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Spoonbill	1	Bistreț – Dj.	08.10.2000	FUND	TM	45020
40	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Stone Curlew	1	Uliuc – Tm.	10.11.1915	THESAURUS	TM	139/1317
41	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Black-Winged Stilt	2	Biled – Tm. Măceșu de Jos – Dj.	23.06.1912 17.08.2016	THESAURUS FUND	TM	144/1326 55706
42	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Avocet	5	Jurilovca – Tl. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Bistreț – Dj.	29.05.1925 06.04.1981 02.05.1987 27.11.1998 10/12/2016	FUND	TM	145/1327 7306 24433 44594 55699
43	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Northern Lapwing	3	Craiova – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Măceșu de Jos – Dj.	15.06.1977 20.05.1996 04.01.2004	FUND	TM	6520 38780 <sup>xx</sup> 49773
44	<i>Calidris (Philomachus) pugnax</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Ruff	2	Săcălaz – Tm. Măceșu de Jos – Dj.	09.03.1924 22.03.1953	FUND	TM	140/1322 2511/12105
45	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Eurasian Woodcock	1	Cârcea – Dj.	1993	FUND	TM	28963
46	<i>Numenius arquata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Eurasian Curlew	1	Bistreț – Dj.	12.10.1972	FUND	TM	55701
47	<i>Tringa ochropus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Green Sandpiper	1	Bistreț – Dj.	05.05.1987	FUND	TM	24413 <sup>x</sup>
48	<i>Glareola pratincola</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) - Collared Pratincole	1	Bistreț – Dj.	19.07.1969	FUND	SS	5404/30954
49	<i>Hydroprogne (Sterna) caspia</i> (Pallas, 1770) - Caspian Tern	1	Bistreț – Dj.	12.10.1972	FUND	TM with ring	5309/30481
50	<i>Pernis apivorus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Honey Buzzard	1	Fântânele – Dj.	11.06.2002	FUND	PN	48564
51	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - White-Tailed Eagle	2	Dunăreni – Dj. Sadova – Dj.	30.11.1999 02.02.2000	FUND	TM	45003 45004

52	<i>Aegypius monachus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) - Black Vulture	1	Dobrogea	24.04.1925	FUND	TM	101/1270
53	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Marsh Harrier	1	Dunăreni – Dj.	23.09.1996	FUND	TM	38782
54	<i>Circus cyaneus</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) - Hen Harrier	2	Segarcea – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj.	12.02.1997 15.12.1998	FUND	TM	40562 45002
55	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Goshawk	3	Filiași – Dj. Filiași – Dj. Breasta – Dj.	05.09.1995 10.01.2003 12.2010	FUND	TM	37915 48580 <sup>xx</sup> 55396 <sup>x</sup>
56	<i>Accipiter nisus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Sparrowhawk	7	Craiova – Dj. Craiova – Dj. Mârșani – Dj. Radovan – Dj. Popânzălești – Dj. Gighera – Dj. Ciutura – Dj.	11.01.1981 17.01.1995 20.02.1995 10.01.1996 15.02.2000 16.02.2003 15.03.2006	FUND	TM	10052 37916 <sup>xx</sup> 37948 37949 46639 49764 54724
57	<i>Buteo buteo</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Buzzard	4	Segarcea – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Bratovoiești - Dj. Măceșu – Dj.	19.11.1995 16.12.1998 30.01.2000 04.01.2004	FUND	TM	38783 44602 45015 <sup>xx</sup> 49770 <sup>x</sup>
58	<i>Buteo rufinus</i> (Cretzschmar, 1827) - Long-legged Buzzard	1	Bistreț – Dj.	07.07.2002	FUND	SS	48569
59	<i>Buteo lagopus</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763) - Rough-legged Buzzard	2	Lazu – Dj. Măceșu de Jos – Dj.	10.01.1997 03.02.2004	FUND	TM	40565 49767 <sup>xx</sup>
60	<i>Aquila clanga</i> Pallas, 1811 - Greater Spotted Eagle	1	Dunăreni – Dj.	26.10.1966	FUND	TM	4950/18460
61	<i>Tyto alba guttata</i> (C. L. Brehm, 1831) - Barn Owl	4	Coșoveni – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Bistreț – Dj. Măceșu de Sus – Dj.	13.01.1980 21.02.1996 20.03.2001 23.02.2005	FUND	TM	7456 37959 47658 <sup>xx</sup> 52339
62	<i>Athene noctua</i> (Scopoli, 1769) - Little Owl	2	Măceșu – Dj. Craiova – Dj.	02.02.2004 10.03.2003	FUND	TM	49775 48574 <sup>xx</sup>
63	<i>Strix aluco</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Tawny Owl	2	Negoiești – Dj. Perișor – Dj.	30.12.1998 12.01.2003	FUND	TM	44600 48578 <sup>xx</sup>
64	<i>Strix uralensis</i> Pallas, 1771 - Ural Owl	2	Murgăși – Dj. Vela – Dj.	24.11.2002 28.02.2003	FUND	TM	48576 48577
65	<i>Asio otus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Long-eared Owl	4	Bistreț – Dj. Segarcea – Dj. Măceșu – Dj. Apele vii – Dj.	22.01.1976 08.01.1998 10.03.2004 02.03.2001	FUND	TM	6511 44599 49776 46641 <sup>x</sup>
66	<i>Asio flammeus</i> (Pontoppidan, 1763) - Short-eared Owl	2	Murgăși – Dj. Perișor – Dj.	06.1987 07.04.2004	FUND	TM	24418 49777
67	<i>Picus viridis</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Green Woodpecker	2	Preajba – Dj. Fântânele – Dj.	20.05.1991 03.07.2002	FUND	TM	27191 48607
68	<i>Dryocopus martius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Black Woodpecker	1	Stâna de Vale – Bh.	18.07.1960	FUND	TM	3932/15094
69	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i> (Hemprich & Ehrenberg, 1833) - Syrian Woodpecker	1	Perișor – Dj.	04.04.2003	FUND	TM	48600 <sup>x</sup>
70	<i>Dendrocopos major</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Great Spotted Woodpecker	3	Perișor – Dj. Perișor – Dj. Perișor – Dj.	31.01.2003 16.03.2003 26.01.2003	FUND	TM	48595 48603 <sup>xx</sup> 48604
71	<i>Alcedo atthis</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Kingfisher	1	Bistreț – Dj.	10/12/2016	FUND	TM	55703
72	<i>Merops apiaster</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Bee-eater	2	Secui – Dj. Fântânele-Radovan-Dj	17.07.1989 15.07.1993	FUND	TM	24461 <sup>x</sup> 37921 <sup>xx</sup>
73	<i>Coracias garrulus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Roller	3	Malu Mare – Dj. Măceșu – Dj. Fântânele – Dj.	25.08.1997 2002 31.05.1995	FUND	TM	40561 48609 37922 <sup>x</sup>
74	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Kestrel	5	Sălcuța – Dj. Secui – Dj. Dunăreni – Dj. Măceșu de Sus – Dj. Fîntînele- Radovan – Dj.	1993 07.06.1995 10.01.2000 28.09.2002 08.01.2003	FUND	TM	28968 37918 46637 48581 <sup>x</sup> 48482 <sup>xx</sup>
75	<i>Falco subbuteo</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Hobby	1	Rast - Dj	21.10.1977	FUND	TM	6596 <sup>xx</sup>
76	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Golden Oriole	1	Fîntînele-Radovan – Dj.	05.05.1998	FUND	TM	44608 <sup>xx</sup>
77	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Eurasian Jay	1	Murgăși – Dj.	15.02.2005	FUND	TM	52366 <sup>x</sup>
78	<i>Coloetus (Corvus) monedula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Eurasian Jackdaw	2	Tirol – Austria Craiova – Dj.	24.06.1918 28.01.2002	THESAURUS FUND	TM	39/1189 47663
79	<i>Prunella collaris</i> (Scopoli, 1769) - Alpine Accentor	1	Mții Retezat – Vf. Zănoaga	19.07.1917	FUND	TM	74/1233

80	<i>Carduelis flammea</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Redpoll	1	Giroc – Tm.	02.02.1914	FUND	TM	46/1201
81	<i>Carduelis chloris</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Greenfinch	1	Craiova – Dj.	20.05.1978	FUND	TM	6552 <sup>x</sup>
82	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Bullfinch	1	Perișor – Dj.	31.01.2005	FUND	TM	52371 <sup>x</sup>
83	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Hawfinch	2	Perișor – Dj. Perișor – Dj.	26.01.2003 15.02.2005	FUND	TM	48614 <sup>xx</sup> 52375 <sup>x</sup>
84	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Reed Bunting	1	Beharca – Dj.	11.02.1983	FUND	TM	11112 <sup>x</sup>
85	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Yellowhammer	1	Negoiești – Dj.	20.01.1977	FUND	TM	6512 <sup>xx</sup>
86	<i>Emberiza calandra</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Corn Bunting	1	Preajba – Malu Mare – Dj.	01.02.1995	FUND	TM	37926 <sup>xx</sup>
87	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i> (Leiser, 1814) - Short-toed Lark	1	Moldova Nouă – Cs.	24.04.1912	FUND	TM	54/1209
88	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i> (Bechstein, 1793) - Wood Warbler	1	Moldova Nouă – Cs.	25.04.1912	FUND	TM	68/1226
89	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i> (C. L. Brehm, 1831) - Bearded Tit	1	Biled – Tm.	06.04.1924	FUND	TM	63/1219
90	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Waxwing	1	Bucovăț – Dj.	02.03.2005	FUND	TM	52370 <sup>x</sup>
91	<i>Sturnus roseus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Rose-coloured Starling	1	Padina Matei – Cs.	08.06.1909	THESAURUS	TM	42/1196
91	<i>Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca</i> Gldenstdt, 1775 - Black-Eared Wheatear	1	Divici – Cs.	28.05.1912	THESAURUS	TM	73/1232
92	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) - Robin	1	Bistreț – Dj.	03.10.1997	FUND	TM	40574 <sup>x</sup>
93	<i>Monticola saxatilis</i> (Linnaeus, 1766) - Rock Thrush	1	Divici – Cs.	23.05.1912	FUND	TM	72/1231
94	<i>Turdus pilaris</i> Linnaeus, 1758 - Fieldfare	1	Bratovoiești – Dj.	07.01.1979	FUND	TM	6829 <sup>x</sup>

**Legend:** TM – taxidermy mount, SS – study skin; County: Bh – Bihor, Cj – Cluj, Cs – Caraș Severin, Dj – Dolj, Tl – Tulcea, Tm – Timiș. Inv. no. marked with one star / two stars: pieces in the process of being ranked in the FUND category of N.C.H.

## RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The ornithology collection of the Oltenia Museum includes **1,828 items**, of which 1,790 are birds (mostly prepared as taxidermy mounts and study skins and, to a lesser extent, as trophies and skeletons), 31 are nests, and 5 are coded metal/plastic rings. The items of the collection have been gathered over decades through donations (the most significant coming from Dionisie Linția, Constantina Sorescu, Dumitru Dumitrescu, as well as from various authorized hunters), acquisitions (the "Herman Flp" Collection, "Valeria Breahm" Collection, "Mircea Popescu" collection of study skins) and collections in the field (especially nests) – RIDICHE, 2011, 2019.

The oldest pieces are dated between 1901 and 1925; we mention 54 specimens collected, prepared, and donated to our museum by the famous ornithologist from Banat, Dionisie Linția, in 1926, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Natural History Museum of Craiova, with the aim of enriching and diversifying its heritage (PETRESCU & RIDICHE, 2009).

From the systematic point of view, the collection totals a number of 232 species systematized in 140 genera, 58 families, and 19 orders, and, in terms of origin, it gathers species from most of the biogeographic areas of Romania, namely from the Danube Alluvial Plain, Oltenia Plain, Banat Plain, the Subcarpathians and the Southern and Eastern Carpathians, the Danube Delta. Five specimens were collected abroad, respectively in Austria - Tyrol (Eurasian jackdaw - *Corvus monedula*), Serbia - South Banat (stock pigeon - *Columba oenas*, European bee-eater - *Merops apiaster*, and western yellow wagtail - *Motacilla f. flava*), Hungary – Trkbecse (brambling - *Fringilla montifringilla*) – RIDICHE, 2011.

Several specimens of birds are marked with rings (e.g. black stork - *Ciconia nigra*, Caspian tern - *Sterna caspia* etc.) which, together with the existing rings in the collection, hold important data related to the migration of the respective species (BAZILESCU, 1973; RIDICHE, 2004a; RIDICHE & KISS, 2011; RIDICHE & SNDOR, 2016).

Starting from their documentary-historical value, corroborated with the memorial value (where applicable), **eight bird specimens** were classified in the **Thesaurus category** of the national cultural heritage (Fig. 1), in three stages (2008 – 2 items, 2019 – 1 item and 2020 – 5 items). **134 specimens** were classified in the **Fund category** of N. C. H. of Romania, also in several stages (2009 – 60 items; 2019 – 24 items, 2020 – 50 items).

Seven of the specimens classified in the Thesaurus category are part of the D. LINȚIA donation and have a unique documentary value among the properties of scientific importance of the N. C. H.; they are also accidental or very rare species in the avifauna of Romania, as well as in public collections in the country. These specimens are: a rock partridge – *Alectoris graeca* (inv. no. 161), collected at Coronini – Caraș Severin County on November 11, 1912; a little bustard – *Tetrax tetrax* (inv. no. 153), collected at Comloșul Mare – Timiș County on December 7, 1921; an Eurasian stone curlew – *Burhinus oedicnemus* (inv. no. 139), collected at Uliuc – Timiș County on November 10, 1915; a black-winged stilt – *Himantopus himantopus* (inv. no. 144), collected at Biled – Timiș County on June 23, 1912; an eastern black-eared wheatear – *Oenanthe hispanica*

*melanoleuca* (inv. no. 73), collected at Divici – Caraș Severin County on May 28, 1912; a rose-coloured starling – *Sturnus roseus* (inv. no. 42), collected at Padina Matei – Caraș Severin County on June 8, 1909; an Eurasian jackdaw – *Coloeus (Corvus) monedula* (inv. no. 39) – a specimen with total leucism collected in Austria, in Tirol on June 24, 1918. The eighth item included in the Thesaurus category is represented by a specimen of the red-breasted goose – *Branta ruficollis* (inv. no. 1012), collected at Corabia – Olt County, on December 1, 1953, the species being currently classified as vulnerable throughout its distribution area in Europe, while in Romania it has the status of an endangered species (MUNTEANU, 2005) – Fig. 1.

		
<p>Rock Partridge <i>Alectoris graeca</i></p>	<p>Little Bustard <i>Tetrax tetrax</i></p>	<p>Eurasian Stone Curlew <i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i></p>
		
<p>Black-Winged Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i></p>	<p>Black-Eared Wheatear <i>Oenanthe hispanica melanoleuca</i></p>	<p>Rose-Coloured Starling <i>Sturnus roseus</i></p>
		
<p>Eurasian Jackdaw <i>Coloeus (Corvus) monedula</i>, specimen with total leucism</p>	<p>Red-Breasted Goose <i>Branta ruficollis</i></p>	

Figure 1. Museum items from the ornithological collection of the Oltenia Museum classified in the Thesaurus category of the National Cultural Heritage (original photos).

Many of the species classified in the Fund category of the N. C. H. are undergoing a numerical decline within their distribution area or are rare, threatened (vulnerable) species in their natural environments: the black stork – *Ciconia nigra*, the great egret – *Ardea alba*, the ferruginous duck – *Aythya nyroca*, the ruddy shelduck – *Tadorna ferruginea*, the common shelduck – *T. tadorna*, the red-throated loon – *Gavia stellata*, the red-breasted merganser – *Mergus serrator*, the smew – *M. albellus*, the black vulture – *Aegypius monachus*, the white-tailed eagle – *Haliaeetus albicilla*, the greater spotted eagle – *Aquila clanga*, the European honey buzzard – *Pernis apivorus*, the great bustard – *Otis tarda*, the corncrake – *Crex crex*, the collared pratincole – *Glareola pratincola*, the barn owl – *Tyto alba*, etc.

A remarkable and unique item in the ornithological heritage of the museum (and very rare in public or private collections in the country) is the flamingo – *Phoenicopterus ruber roseus*, found shot in the area of Bistreț lake – Dolj county, on December 10, 2016 (RIDICHE, 2017a, 2019). The specimen was classified in the Fund category of the N. C. H. (M.O. 3219 of 07.10.2020). The great diversity of bird species (almost 60% of the avifauna of Romania), as well as the avifaunistic rarities it contains, confer a significant faunal value to the collection; consequently, the ornithological heritage is the support of many scientific studies regarding the regional or Romanian avifauna and represents, at the same time, an important means of education in the field of protection and preservation of local and national biodiversity (RIDICHE, 2000, 2004b, 2005, 2006, 2012, 2017b).

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**Ridiche Mirela Sabina**

The Oltenia Museum, Nature Sciences Department, Popa Șapcă Str., No. 8, Craiova, Romania.  
E-mail: ridichemirela@gmail.com

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