

Corn crane, or landrail (*Crex crex*)

It is a medium-sized crane with buff- or grey-streaked brownish-black upperparts, chestnut markings on the wings, and blue-grey underparts with rust-coloured and white bars on the flanks and undertail. The corn crane's habitats would originally have included river meadows with tall grass and meadow plants including sedges and irises, it is now mainly found in cool moist grassland used for the production of hay, particularly moist traditional farmland with limited cutting or fertiliser use.

Common kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)

This sparrow-sized bird has the typical short-tailed, large-headed kingfisher profile; it has blue upperparts, orange underparts and a long bill. It feeds mainly on fish, caught by diving, and has special visual adaptations to enable it to see prey under water. The flight of the kingfisher is fast, direct and usually low over water. The short rounded wings whirl rapidly, and a bird flying away shows an electric-blue "flash" down its back.



White-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*)

It is an Eurasian woodpecker. It is the largest of the spotted woodpeckers in the western Palearctic, 24-26 cm long with a wingspan of 38-40 cm. It has plumage similar to the great spotted woodpecker, but with white bars across the wings rather than spots, and a white lower back. The male has a red crown, the female a black one. In the breeding season it excavates a nest hole about 7 cm wide and 30 cm deep in a decaying tree trunk.

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The project's beneficiary is Covasna County Council

Duration of the project is 21 months, between April 2014 and December 2015

The overall objective of the project is the protection and preservation of biodiversity and the natural heritage through the proper management of the protected areas administered by Covasna County Council, and to ensure the local community's and the visitors access to information on the natural values and thus contributing to their sustainable development. Further information about the project on www.natcov.ro, www.natkov.ro

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Natura 2000 Site Bodoc- Baraolt Mountains

Proper Management of the Bodoc-Baraolt Mountains, Ciocaș-Vițelului Hills, Apa Roșie Peat Bog, Apa Lină -Honcsok Peat Bog, Upper Olt, Râul Negru, Ciomad-Balványos and Mestecănișul de la Reci Protected Areas



The Natura 2000 Network

Natura 2000 is a network of nature protection areas in the territory of the European Union established in 1992. It is made up of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated respectively under the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive. These sites protect vulnerable habitats such as wetlands, which in turn helps to safeguard the animals and plants which need these places to survive. Across the EU a diverse range of habitats are protected, from flower-rich meadows to vast expanses of estuaries, even cave systems, and a huge variety of animals throughout the EU benefit from this, such as golden eagles, flamingos, otters and lynx.

The Bodoc-Baraolt Mountains

Natura 2000 Site, ROSPA0082



The site is a Natura 2000 protected area since 2007 and covers entirely the Baraolt Mountains and partly the Bodoc Mountains, 70% of the area consisting of forests, in-between them are meadows and a few extensively cultivated agricultural lands. All these habitats are ideal nesting areas for raptors and black storks, and several other species characteristic for beech forest. The Special Protection Area hosts important population of 21 European bird species, almost all of them nesting in this area, except the red-footed falcon and the ferruginous duck, which only pass by through the place. Also, the site preserves nine at EU level endangered species which are the following: lesser spotted eagle, European honey buzzard, Ural owl, black stork, grey-headed woodpecker, white-backed woodpecker, black woodpecker, collared flycatcher, red-breasted flycatcher. Other important species from other groups: Yellow-bellied toad (*Bombina variegata*), Northern crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), Carpathian newt (*Triturus montandoni*).

Community interest bird species:

White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)
Black stork (*Ciconia nigra*)
Spotted Eagles (*Aquila pomarina*)
European honey buzzard (*Pernis apivorus*)
Red-footed falcon (*Falco vespertinus*)
White-backed woodpecker (*Dendrocopos leucotos*)
Middle spotted woodpecker (*Dendrocopos medius*)
Black woodpecker (*Dryocopus martius*)
Collared flycatcher (*Ficedula albicollis*)
Red-breasted flycatcher (*Ficedula parva*)
Lesser grey shrike (*Lanius minor*)
Woodlark (*Lullula arborea*)
Red-backed shrike (*Lanius collurio*)
Hazel grouse (*Bonasa bonasia*)
Corn crake (*Crex crex*)
Eurasian eagle-owl (*Bubo bubo*)
Ural owl (*Strix uralensis*)
European nightjar (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)
Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*)
Grey-headed woodpecker (*Picus canus*)
Ferruginous duck (*Aythya nyroca*)



Lesser Spotted Eagle

(*Aquila pomarina*)

It is a medium-sized raptor. It is brown from above, except for a light-colored head and neck and pale upperwing coverts. They have a small white patch on the primary feathers and the flight feathers are dark brown to black. They live in lowland forest close to wetlands, dry upland forest, forest steppe, river valleys, and wet meadows. They eat small mammals such as ground squirrels, rats, mice, and voles, along with birds, frogs, lizards, snakes, and insects. They hunt from a perch, on the ground, or in flight around 100 m high.