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PRESENCE OF THE SPECIES *GLAREOLA PRATINCOLA* (CHARADRIIFORMES, GLAREOLIDAE) IN THE LOWER PRUT ARIA

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The wetland of Lower Prut is an attractive sector for an impressive 228 species of wild birds. On May 22, 2022 in the arranged fish ponds in the northern part of Lake Manta (Crihana Veche village, Cahul district) 6 specimens belonging to the species were reported *Glareola Pratincola* (Linnaeus, 1766). Collared Pratincole is a rare species in the avifauna of our country, which prefers arid areas, exposed to the sun, sandy, with little vegetation, near the waters. In Romania it is a summer guest, a nesting species. In the Republic of Moldova, it was encountered during migration, the last report being mentioned by ornithologists on September 9, 2000 near Lake Cuciurgan. Some 19th century authors claimed that in the autumn months huge flocks landed in the lower meadows of the Dniester and Prut. Continuous habitat degradation has significantly reduced the species' numbers.

The first 4 specimens encountered this year were observed on the dry strip in the vicinity of the water, where the grassy carpet was made up of small plants of *Rumex acetosa* and fragments of dried stems of *Oenanthe aquatica.* At our appearance two specimens flew, two more remained on the ground, fluttering, spreading and swelling its wings. Near the birds were 5 specimens of *Charadrius dubius* who were looking for food at the water's edge. Our attention was drawn by the behavior of the specimens of *Recurvirostra avosetta* and *Himantopus himantopus,* who were flying and making shrill sounds in flight, as if wanting to attack. The specimens left on the ground mimicked that they were injured. They defended the colony located in the poor vegetation where nests could be seen consisting of 3-4 eggs. We also met 2 pairs of *Piet avocet* that accompanied their chicks through the small water. At about 50-60 m from the colony, through the grassy carpet about 8 cm high, we came across 2 mature specimens of *Collared Pratincole.* And in this case the birds were agitated, attracting attention by the movements made on the ground or by the sounds made in flight. This kind of behavior is practiced by birds during the breeding season, when adult birds want to take the predator away from the nesting site. Most likely the nests could be hidden in the higher grass zone in the middle of the field. Presence during the summer of the species *Glareola pratincola* and birds behavior involves nesting the species in the Manta Lake ecosystem.

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