

THE DURANKULAK LAKE

1. Location: The most northern of Bulgarian coastal lakes, situated northeast of Vakilno, Tolbouhin District, area 350 ha., average depth 1.4 m., max. depth 4 m.

2. Characteristics:

a/ Brakish coastal lake, with low salinity, freezing below freezing point. Fed by two springs at its southwest bank.

b/ Over 20 species of plants have been established: Angiospermae (Phragmites communis), Iris pseudocoris, Ranunculus aquatilis etc., Pteridophyta (Equisetum palustris), Cyanophyta (1/ species), Euglenophyta (10 species) Chlorophyta (47 species)

Habitat of 4 species of Crustacea, 20 species Insecta, rare and endemic species of Gobiidae, Clupeidae, and Gasterosteidae.

Habitat of rare and endangered breeding and migratory wintering species: Branta ruficollis, Casarca ferrunginea, Anser albifrons, Cyngus olor, Botaurus stellaris etc.

Protected Status

Designated as a protected territory (protected landscape) by Order No 123/21st Feb., 1980 of the Committee for the Preservation of the Environment, (State Gazzette No 23/ 1980).

Anthropogenic activity limited, no industrial or other polution, not included in reclamation plans, no hunting.

A 500 m buffer zone has been established where hunting and the application of pesticides is banned. Fishing allowed only when the bird colony is not disturbed.

Reasons for the inclusion in the List of Wetland Zones of International Importance: la, lb, lc .

Wintering waterfowl - Anser albifrons 17000 (1871 - 34,064), Anser anser, approx. 430, (18800) Branta ruficollis 400 (93 - 1711) an average of 27 000, wintering ducks, geese and swans.

Species numbering less than 1 % or such lacking a precisely worked out crit rion. Breeding - Podiceps cristatus, Ixobrychus minutus, Botaurus stellaris, Cyngus olor, Anser anser , Anas platyrhynchus, Cyrcus aeruginosus, Fulica atra, Glareola pratincola, Wintering: Gavia arctica, Podiceps cristatus, Podiceps nigrocolis, Podiceps grisegena, Phalacrocorax pygmeus, Phalacrocorax carbo, etc.

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Average winter numbers 32,000, 19 species,
(min. 14300 - 13 species, max. 71,000, - 24 species).