



*Miscellaneous*

## ***Petar Shurulinkov (1975-2023) - A Promising Bulgarian Ornithologist, Suddenly Stopped by Fate. A Biobibliography***

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### **Short biographic notes**

Petar Stanislavov Shurulinkov was born on December 25, 1975 in Sofia. He graduated from high school in 1993 in the National Gymnasium of Natural Sciences and Mathematics "Academician Lyubomir Chakalov" in Sofia. In the same year, he applied and was accepted as a student at the Department of "Vertebrate Zoology and Anthropology" at the Faculty of Biology of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (1993-1998).



Assoc. Prof. Petar Shurulinkov in the Bird exhibition hall. National Museum of Natural History, BAS. 18.04.2016. Photo: Z. Boev.

His entire scientific career was spent at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In the former Institute of Zoology, he defended his PhD thesis in zoology in 2003 after a three-year (2000-2003) scholarship (Shurulinkov, 2003).

In 2009 he obtained his habilitation as a senior research associate II degree at the Institute of Zoology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. In 2010 he has moved at the National Museum of Natural History at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (NMNHS-BAS) as an Associate Professor and a curator of the ornithological collection of dry preparations of birds and that of bird nests and eggs. In the museum, the Associate Professor Petar Shurulinkov established himself as one of the outstanding environmentalists, showed good legislative awareness and an active civic position in solving various problems. Peter is the winner of the Jury Award of the Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation in the Nature Activist category for 2022.

He is the author of over 140 scientific publications, mostly in the field of ornithology and bird parasitology, among them 8 books, 4 action plans for rare bird species and 33 articles (chapters) of scientific books, 11 essays on bird species in the second edition of the Red Book of Bulgaria. He participated in 15 scientific conferences with reports on parasitology and ornithology. Petar's works have been cited more than 430 times in the country and abroad.

Dr. Petar Shurulinkov has been an active member of the Balkan Wildlife Association for 3 decades. He was also a member of the Bulgarian Parasitological Society.

Petar's main scientific contributions are in the field of ornithology, parasitology and nature conservation. In the field of ornithology he worked intensively on the distribution, migration, population dynamics, biology and ecology of birds. In the field of parasitology his achievements are on the blood unicellular parasites of birds; fauna and distribution of hemosporidians in Bulgaria; influence of various factors on the extent of infection of birds with Haemosporidia; impact of Haemosporidia on wild birds and on migration in migratory species. His contributions in the nature conservation are in the field of protection of birds; conservation legislation, important bird areas for the protection of birds and their habitats. P. Shurulinkov published his research in 17 countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Finland, Italy, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the United States, and Ukraine in 5 languages (Bulgarian, English, Russian, German, and Czech).

Peter was the supervisor of two PhD students who successfully defended their dissertations in 2022 and 2023 (Gerdzhikov, 2022; Daskalova, 2023).

One of the last initiatives of Assoc. Prof. P. Shurulinkov was the Ornithological Camp "Durankulak" (NE Bulgaria on the Via Pontica flyway), organized by the NMNHS-BAS. In the last few years, ten or more thousands of birds of about 90-100 species have ringed in it. This takes this camp at the first place on the Balkan Peninsula.

It was there that P. Shurulinkov established the Dusky warbler (*Phylloscopus fuscatu*s (Blyth, 1842)) as a new species for the Bulgarian avifauna. The premature death (09.08.2023) of this promising young scientist caused a great loss to the entire Bulgarian ornithological community. In his memory, the Ornithological Camp in Durankulak was named "Peter Shurulinkov".



Assoc. Prof. Petar Shurulinkov at the new Bird skin depot. National Museum of Natural History, BAS. 21.05.2014. Photo: Z. Boev.

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*Petar Shurulinkov (1975-2023) - A Promising Bulgarian Ornithologist, Suddenly Stopped by Fate. ABio bibliography Series, Book 11, Sofia, 440-442.*

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