

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO HUNGARY
Natural History Tour

08 - 15 JULY 2016



Leaders: Gabor Orban & David Walsh

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A Personal Diary

Ornitholidays' second tour to the Kiskunság National Park was, if anything, even more successful than the first. As I wrote last year, virtually all the special birds can be found in July if you know where to look! Eastern Imperial Eagle was only seen distantly, but that was the exception; we had cracking scope views of Great Bustard, Saker Falcon, Syrian Woodpecker and Pygmy Cormorant and saw Moustached Warbler in the hand. We were privileged to see a breeding colony of Red-footed Falcons plus a roost of Long-eared Owls, and the daily sightings of European Bee-eaters, European Rollers and Lesser Grey Shrikes were marvellous, not forgetting the perched European Turtle Doves, Eurasian Hoopoes and Eurasian Golden Orioles on our final morning. Perhaps the defining moment was watching a Great Reed Warbler feed a juvenile Common Cuckoo! We spent time enjoying the butterflies and dragonflies too, with 38 and 21 species respectively; Lesser Spotted Fritillary, Cardinal and Common Glider, Large White-faced Darter, Yellow-spotted Emerald and Southern Migrant Hawker were some of the highlights. As a bonus, we had great fun looking through the moth trap on our last morning. Rain earlier in the spring meant that the displays of wild flowers were especially impressive this year.

Kondor Eco-Lodge proved to be a wonderful base from which to explore, with early morning and late afternoon strolls into the woods, across the fields and actually within the garden both productive and enjoyable. We were served a range of traditional Hungarian dishes and were made to feel like members of the family by Gabor and Andrea. Gabor was much more than a 'local bird guide'; he naturally knew all the best sites for wildlife, but he was flexible to the particular needs of our party and his knowledge of Hungarian culture, history and politics was encyclopaedic! There is really high quality birding on this tour as well as general natural history, and I am already looking forward to a return visit in 2017.

Friday 8th July

Our British Airways flight from Heathrow to Budapest took off at 3.55pm, over an hour late; however, as a result of tail winds and 'short cuts', it took only an hour and fifty minutes! Passport control and baggage reclaim were very quick so, having been greeted by Andrea in arrivals, we were able to meet up with Gabor at the minibus just before 7.30pm and arrived at Kondor Tanya, our base for the whole week, an hour later. Shortly after 9pm we were enjoying bone soup, a pork and mushroom 'sandwich' and chestnut purée, followed by a complimentary local liqueur. This set the tone for the week: tasty food, beautifully prepared for us by Andrea. Replete, we retired to our homely rooms eagerly anticipating the day ahead.

Saturday 9th July

With breakfast at the leisurely hour of 8am, most of us took the opportunity of a lie-in or at least the chance to get sorted. The well-stocked table included muesli, yoghurts, salad, a variety of cold meats and cheeses, fresh jam and plenty of fruit; sensibly we were left to create our own picnic lunches to suit our individual needs.

At 9am we set off, soon turning left off the metalled road and driving for around 10 minutes before strolling near a European Bee-eater colony. We counted over 100 birds, some perched on wires, others catching prey and then returning to the nest-holes on the ground right next to the path: an awesome start to our birding! A singing Crested Lark, our first Western Marsh Harriers and a juvenile male Goshawk hunting above the trees provided further entertainment. A pair of European Rollers was feeding young in a nest-box and, as we watched expectantly, one arrived with a small mammal. Unexpectedly, we had the chance to look inside a church in an isolated copse; it was open for a special service and we watched the guests arrive on pony traps! Nearby we scoped a family group of Lesser Grey Shrikes, seemingly present in increased numbers this year, and noted Eastern Bath White and Pale Clouded Yellow butterflies. There were a number of interesting flowers on display, the spring rains meaning the landscape was noticeably more verdant than on the 2015 tour.

We returned to the lodge for a pit stop; this coincided with a few spots of rain, and we were grateful for the cloud cover! Back out in the field, it was still overcast as we ate our picnic on a grassy mound, tables and chairs provided by Gabor: no expense spared! En route we had watched some sleepy Fallow Deer, a family group of Black Redstarts and a smart White Wagtail in a roadside garden. Butterflies at our lunch spot included

a male Reverdin's Blue which took some identifying as well as Marbled White, a surprisingly yellowish Wood White and, best of all, a fine Queen of Spain Fritillary posing on a scabious.

Some of the group rested in the bus whilst others walked with me along a short nature trail through the forest. We compared Willow, Small and Southern Emerald Damselflies as well as Ruddy and Southern Darters; impressive Cardinal butterflies were nectaring on the thistles. We marvelled at a European Honey Buzzard flying low overhead before heat and insects meant it was time to head to the sanctuary of a café, where a Black Stork drifted over. Gabor collected the rest of the group and together we enjoyed cold drinks in the shade, although investigating the pond outside was very tempting, and indeed productive, as we found a swimming Grass Snake as well as Edible Frogs alongside White-legged Damselflies and White-tailed Skimmers. A group of Hungarian children were fascinated!

Suitably chilled, and with the temperature beginning to drop, we headed a short distance to a spot where Gabor explained the significance of a typical 'Transylvania Gate' at the entrance to a house. A little further on, at a roadside channel, we heard a distant Savi's Warbler buzzing, but were more impressed by the pair of Montagu's Harriers across the field. A male Red-backed Shrike on a wire was enjoyed before we returned to the lodge, arriving back at 5.15pm. There was time for some to stroll near the pond, where a Tree Pipit was singing. We met for drinks at 7pm, doing our bird list in the garden with a purring European Turtle Dove for company. At dinner cauliflower soup was followed by croquette of pork and then Neapolitan ice cream with sour cherries. The large glasses of red wine were much to our liking: the wine was called Egri Bikavér (the Bull's blood of Eger). Well before 9pm we headed to bed having had a superbly varied day.

Sunday 10th July

European Susliks in their chosen field were a good start to the day before we journeyed to the north of the Kiskunság National Park in search of some of its most special birds. Bang on 10am we arrived at a small man-made hill overlooking an expanse of puszta. Gabor provided chairs so those who wished could sit whilst they scanned for raptors. We saw two five-star species, but the views of Eastern Imperial Eagle and Saker Falcon were frustratingly distant. Eastern Baton Blue was new for everyone, whilst a Silver-studded Blue actually took a liking to the hand of one of the group!

Gabor then drove us to another European Bee-eater colony, this one in a cliff which the species was sharing with Common Sand Martins; we were able to enjoy their comings and goings from the shade of the bus, loving the fluty calls all around us! An Idas Blue detained us briefly before we headed to a roadside channel, where dragonflies and fish took centre stage, with Scarlet Darter, Lesser Emperor, Pike and Rudd all seen well.

At the nearby town of Bugyi we relaxed outside a wonderful cake shop; the owners kindly allowed us to eat our picnic there, and we supplemented it with various provisions from their establishment including some super ice creams! European Serin and Scarce Swallowtail were noted as we continued to make the most of the shade.

Via a lake with a roosting group of Common Terns, followed by a roadside Little Owl perched in typical fashion on a wall, we headed into unchartered territory as we explored 'off-road'. We were still after bustards, and weren't successful in that respect but we had lots of fun and loads of birds as we tootled. A group of Collared Pratincoles, uncommon in the Kiskunság, were seen in flight overhead and we had time to discuss their distinctive features and taxonomy! Tawny Pipit, Yellow Wagtail and Common Quail were all flushed from the track but paled into insignificance as we had perhaps the most amazing sight of the whole week. In a tree not far ahead of us, the source of a mystery begging sound was found to be a juvenile Common Cuckoo and, as we watched it, the host parent, a Great Reed Warbler, came in with food; we felt very privileged.

At 4.15pm we arrived at a copse where, having enjoyed a cup of tea, we focused on the colony of Red-footed Falcons, eventually obtaining scope views of both male and female birds. The nesting White Storks delighted the photographers and, all the while, we were royally entertained by the local musicians!

We arrived back just before 6pm, once again having plenty of time to unwind before we met up at 7.30pm. At dinner we thoroughly enjoyed the magnificent goulash soup, having several helpings! It had been a hot day in the field and, although we hadn't seen all our target species, we had more than made up for that with our other sightings.

Monday 11th July

A pre-breakfast gathering by the pond at 7.30am was pleasant, but relatively quiet birdwise.

We left at the usual time and made a 45 minute journey to the south-west, soon reaching an area of alkaline lakes, another special habitat of this area; the last part was on a track which Gabor told us had lots of history! We had no need to take advantage of the tower hide, with the high water levels meaning a variety of waders were clearly visible from our vantage point, the minibus being used to provide shade. There were over 100 Ruff, including some splendid males still in summer plumage; Pied Avocets (c50) and Wood Sandpiper (c10) were also relatively numerous, with small numbers of other relatively familiar species including Spotted Redshank. The gathering of Greylag Geese numbered over 1000; whilst watching some of them in flight we spotted a group of a dozen Black-winged Stilts in the distance. A Pygmy Cormorant whizzed past; we hoped for better views later in the week.

Retracing our steps, we reached some roadside pools which contained much more water than in 2015; over 50 Whiskered Terns gave excellent views from a variety of angles, their colour and shape changing depending on the light which was highly instructive. We enjoyed seeing a brood of Little Grebes, whilst Little Ringed Plover and Green Sandpiper were added to the wader list. The nearby stand of trees played host to another Red-foot colony but, with the weather hotting up, we didn't linger, instead heading to a restaurant for our picnic at noon. Once again it was good of the owners to let us use their facilities; freshly made lemonade and chocolate ice cream were amongst our various purchases. A Hummingbird Hawkmoth appeared briefly on the flowers next to our table.

Having rested for an hour or so we spent 90 productive minutes at a fishing lake and channel just down the road, using shade from the poplar trees whenever possible. A Little Bittern gave a splendid flight view to many as it headed across the water, the singing Eurasian Golden Orioles in contrast continuing to frustrate. By the channel, we found two old nests of Eurasian Penduline Tits, one of which was being recycled to create a new one; it was a real privilege to watch the adult at work, another magical moment. A Black-crowned Night Heron was a bonus before we headed to Szabadszállás for further ice creams as well as stamps from the post office.

Given the heat, we sensibly declared and headed back to base, arriving at 3.30pm for a siesta before reconvening at 5.30pm. Dainty Damselflies by the pond and a number of Southern Migrant Hawkers patrolling the field down the lane were enjoyed as we prepared for dinner; we were pleased to have avoided getting too hot today whilst still seeing some excellent wildlife.

Tuesday 12th July

We had breakfast at 7.15am, earlier than usual, and left at 8am for the 40 minute drive to the KOLON reserve, in the south-west part of the Kiskunság, a little to the east of where we had been the previous day. We wanted to ensure that we arrived there in time for a net round, and we were in luck. We saw ten species 'in the hand' including Moustached Warbler (for the second year running) and juvenile male and female Bearded Reedlings. It was fascinating to watch the demonstration at an internationally important site where hundreds of birds are ringed daily, and as in 2015 it was very good to see a young Hungarian birder being part of the ringing crew.

Next we spent a super hour touring the lake in a small boat. The birding highlight was undoubtedly the close views of several Squacco Herons. The open water at Lake KOLON has been recreated in recent years and is a haven for dragonflies in particular. We saw a number of species including several Norfolk Hawkers, hundreds of Small Red-eyed Damselflies and, just before we finished, a Yellow-spotted Emerald which flew right next to the boat. There were fewer butterflies near the lake than last year but we added Grizzled and Mallow Skippers to our growing list.

With the temperature rising, a little before noon we took advantage of the shade at the reserve centre for our picnic. Butterflies in the garden itself were very flighty, although a Nettle-tree Butterfly was seen by a lucky few, so I decided to explore the lane instead. Almost at once I found something I really hoped we would see but didn't expect to. A tatty, but very welcome, Large White-faced Darter was sitting on a leaf at eye-level. Lake KOLON is famous for this species, with thousands present in June, but it was clearly coming to the end of its season so we were very fortunate. A stroll down along the nature trail to the boardwalk was productive for birds, with a casual pish resulting in respectable views of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and Eurasian Nuthatch.

We returned to the lodge at 2.15pm and sensibly relaxed on what was the hottest day of the tour. A late afternoon stroll to a garden across the road produced excellent views of two juvenile Barred Warblers which I had found on a recce earlier on. After an early dinner, we headed a short distance into the forest where we were treated to an exceptional display from the local European Nightjars, with several churring, one perching in a tree and others flying right overhead. A Glow-worm outside the rooms provided a lovely end to a splendidly varied day.

Wednesday 13th July

I took advantage of another lovely early morning to take some photos of birds close to the lodge, and met up with one of the group on his daily stroll; Woodlark and Eurasian Hobby were two of the species we noted, the latter calling remarkably like a Eurasian Wryneck. Independently, each of us was fortunate enough to flush a Common Quail.

Tasty scrambled egg was added to the breakfast menu this morning. At 9am we headed east for about an hour to a shady forest with some wonderfully big trees, walking a short way along a wide trail to a ‘stake-out’ for Middle Spotted Woodpecker. A responsive bird gave flight views to all, but you had to be lucky, and quick, to spot it perched. Common Glider and Map Butterfly were enjoyed in a clearing as we ambled back towards the bus. Most saw a Short-toed Treecreeper amongst the tits, but a fly-over Hawfinch was very definitely ‘heard-only’. A Spotted Flycatcher was scoped in a clearing before we took advantage of the chance to explore a private garden with a lovely pond, complete with terrapins!

The middle part of the day was spent in and around the picturesque town of Tiszaalpár, pausing for coffee before exploring a park, complete with a monument illustrating the break-up of Hungary in times past. We picnicked on benches in the churchyard, where a Syrian Woodpecker eluded most of us.

Next to the town is a vast wetland, home to a wide range of sought-after species. We drove down to a path between two lakes, seeing numerous perched Black-crowned Night-Herons, an obliging Pygmy Cormorant and several close range Whiskered Terns. A Savi’s Warbler buzzed near us but a Short-toed Eagle was leader-only. It was seriously hot here, so we escaped to an adjacent hill-top with a refreshing breeze. An adult White-tailed Eagle rose up from a nearby tree, a magic moment as it flew above the church. The power and quality of our scopes was, once again, put to good effect as we scanned the water, with a number of Black-necked Grebes, Garganey and Ferruginous Ducks located. But it was the sheer scale of the place which was most impressive, hundreds of terns, cormorants, egrets and herons seen and heard as well as a small group of Eurasian Spoonbills. A River Warbler singing by our mound was a real bonus, although it remained hidden.

Saker Falcon is one of the rarest birds of prey in Europe, but Hungary is a real stronghold, not least due to the efforts of conservationists in putting up nest boxes on pylons. We were pleased to see a fine adult both perched and in flight, its wing span roughly the same as a Common Buzzard!

On the way home Gabor gave us a guided bus tour of the centre of Kecskemét, a large city with some very fine architecture. A Crested Lark entertained us at a petrol station before we made one more stop in a smaller town, Kerekegyháza, where three Long-eared Owls were found at their roost in a small square; the views were incredible!

We returned just before 5.30pm, allowing some a couple of hours to rest before our evening meeting and dinner. Others strolled up the road to photograph the butterflies heading to the shelter of the long grass, Lesser Spotted Fritillary and Eastern Short-tailed Blue the highlights plus the chance to compare Silver-studded and Reverdin’s Blues. The source of an odd call proved to be a Corn Bunting!

As usual we did our bird list in the garden and, for the second evening running, progress was interrupted by a calling Lesser Spotted Woodpecker: an unusual, but very pleasant, distraction! We enjoyed dinner as usual but, as we retired, hoped that rain would arrive and lower both the temperature and humidity.

Thursday 14th July

We had anticipated a storm overnight, and it didn’t disappoint! Having looked at the forecast, we sensibly delayed our departure until 10am, and knew that patience would be required during the morning with a brighter

afternoon promised. We headed west, then north; it was still drizzling as we began scouring the fields, a distant group of European Golden Plovers remaining leader-only but Whimbrel, Eurasian Curlew and several flocks of Northern Lapwing noted by everyone. Having checked a number of areas we made a pit stop in the town of Apaj, the rain having petered out; we were delighted to find a male and juvenile Syrian Woodpecker in the trees across the road and had excellent scope views allowing us to see all the diagnostic features.

At a channel to the east we saw a good variety of species: nothing new, but it was nice feeling that we were able to identify everything with relative ease. Perhaps because we had seen one vehicle stuck in the muddy conditions we decided against heading up a bumpy track towards the fishponds, instead continuing east, in theory drifting towards the town of Bugyi for our picnic. We never actually made it. First, a pair of Grey Partridges was seen attempting to escort their brood across the road; nearby an enormous sub-adult White-tailed Eagle was spotted on top of a look-out post, a second bird sparring with it briefly. Just up the road, at 1.12pm, we achieved our prize target. A Great Bustard was feeding in a field not far from us! We were able to disembark and set up the scopes and had very good views of this bird and at least three others. The cloudy conditions meant that there was no heat haze, so viewing conditions were excellent. We decided to set up our picnic table and chairs and enjoy lunch at this birdy spot. A male Montagu's Harrier hunted at the back and a group of seven Common Cranes hove into view, although it took a while for everyone to see them as they disappeared from time to time into the higher vegetation. A Roe Deer kept them company and provided a good size comparison.

Eventually, some of the group finally headed into Bugyi and the delights of our favourite cake shop; others continued to enjoy the cranes and bustards. By now it was mid-afternoon and the off-road tracks were drying out nicely so we decided it would be fine to head to the tower hide overlooking Apaj fishponds. Many birds were distant, but using the scopes we managed to find a female Red-crested Pochard as well as several Common Pochards and Ferruginous Ducks. The large gulls proved to be Yellow-legged; we were on alert for Caspian! A Little Bittern whizzed by in typical fashion and we had good looks at the numerous Purple Herons, both adults and juveniles, as well as Great Egrets. An adult White-tailed Eagle was distant but still impressive. We made an anti-clockwise loop of the ponds in the bus, seeing a splendid Black Tern perched on a nearby post; it was moulting out of summer plumage so was highly instructive.

Once back on the paved road we drove east and then south, seeing another Great Bustard, this one giving a superb fly-past. Then, via a number of towns in the central northern Kiskunság, we returned to the lodge arriving in bright sunshine at 6pm. Once again we had planned sensibly, avoiding the worst of the weather and seeing our main target as well as adding a number of new birds to our trip list. We were delighted that Gabor and Andrea were able to spend time with us as we enjoyed our final dinner together.

Friday 15th July

After our final breakfast we spent the best part of the morning exploring close to the lodge, enjoying the special birds of the area for the last time. A ringtail Montagu's Harrier was the latest bird to be feasting on the creatures uncovered in the recently cut hay field, whilst Red-backed Shrikes and Eurasian Hoopoes were scoped in the garden across the road. An Icterine Warbler called and sang briefly but remained leader-only before we drove a short distance to the next copse. For half an hour the group were treated to an amazing spectacle as Eurasian Golden Orioles, European Bee-eaters, European Rollers and European Turtle Doves were amongst the birds perching in the open on the dead trees: awesome! A family of Lesser Grey Shrikes was obliging too, and I managed to show the group a Knapweed Fritillary. A hepatic Common Cuckoo flew by as we drove a little further to an area adjacent to the now dry Lake Kondor (although there had been some water in it this year for the first time since 2010); here we added Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow and Dingy Skipper to our butterfly list in addition to revising species seen on the first day.

We returned to the lodge at 11.45am and scrutinised hundreds of moths attracted to our trap overnight. With relatively little effort we identified 14 species, including Spurge Hawkmoth and Buff-tip; the accurately named Nine-spotted had been seen earlier in the garden. There was plenty of time to picnic, pack and rest before we departed a little after 3pm. The journey to the airport took a little over an hour and, before checking in for our evening flight to London, we said a fond goodbye to Gabor and Andrea who had both made the week so special for us all; they were spending a day in Budapest prior to heading for a butterfly tour in the hills.

Birds of the Trip (voted by the group)

- 1st Saker Falcon
- 2nd Lesser Grey Shrike
- 3rd= Great Bustard
- 3rd= Eurasian Hoopoe
- 5th= European Bee-eater
- 5th= Syrian Woodpecker
- 7th= Eurasian Golden Oriole
- 7th= European Roller
- 7th= Long-eared Owl
- 7th= Red-footed Falcon

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all of you for your company during the week and looking so keenly at the wildlife in general, not just the birds. Thanks too for making the most of Gabor's expertise with regard to Hungarian history and culture. I am grateful to John Mulrenan for preparing a list of freshwater fish, a first in a trip report for me. Thanks as always to Ed Keeble for his assistance in preparing the photographs and to Penny Chambers for allowing us to use some of your images. Last but not least, thanks to Gabor and Andrea for their patience, warmth and good humour and paying attention to the little details which made this such an enjoyable and successful tour.

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August 2016



Kondor Eco Lodge

Itinerary and Weather

Friday 8 th July	Mid-afternoon flight from Heathrow to Budapest, arriving early evening, then transfer to Kondor Eco-Lodge in the Kiskunság National Park.
Saturday 9 th July	Kunpuszta (just north of the lodge), including Peszéradsacs nature trail (picnic). Mostly cloudy with spots of rain am, sunny pm, 18-28°C.
Sunday 10 th July	North Kiskunság including Hosszúhát (raptor viewpoint), Bugyi (picnic) and Apajpuszta (Red-footed Falcon colony). Sunny, 14-29°C.
Monday 11 th July	West Kiskunság near Járápuszta including Böddi-szék alkaline lakes, Kígyósi Czárda (picnic), fishing lake and channel. Siesta at lodge, then late afternoon stroll. Sunny, 15-33°C.
Tuesday 12 th July	Ringing demonstration, boat trip and picnic at Lake Kolon. Siesta at lodge, then late afternoon stroll and post-dinner Nightjars. Sunny, 17-34°C
Wednesday 13 th July	East Kiskunság including Töserdő (forest) and Tiszaalpár (picnic in churchyard, wetlands). Return via Kecskemét (city tour) and Kerekegyháza (Long-eared Owls). Sunny spells, increasingly humid, 20-31°C.
Thursday 14 th July	North Kiskunság including Bösztörpuszta (fields), Apaj (town and fishponds), Bugyi (Great Bustards, picnic) and Kunpeszér (flying Great Bustard). Overnight thunderstorms clearing to showers, then cloud, then sunshine, 16-22°C.
Friday 15 th July	Kunpuszta (south of the lodge, near Lake Kondor). Picnic at the lodge, then afternoon transfer to Budapest for evening flight to Heathrow. Sunny, 14-23°C.



Small Emerald Damselfly



White-legged Damselfly



Large White-faced Darter



Sand Lizard

CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded **Abundance Scale (max seen on 1 day)**

1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days 1 = 1 - 4
 2 = 5 - 9
 3 = 10 - 99
 4 = 100 - 999
 5 = 1,000 +

Species	No of days recorded	Abundance Scale	Scientific name
Mute Swan	2	3	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Greylag Goose	3	5	<i>Anser anser</i>
Common Shelduck	1	1	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Mallard	5	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Eurasian Teal	1	2	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Garganey	1	2	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Common Pochard	1	3	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-crested Pochard	1	1	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	2	2	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Grey Partridge	1	1	<i>Perdix perdix</i>
Common Quail	2	1h	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Common Pheasant	7	2	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	2	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Little Grebe	3	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	2	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	2	3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	4	4	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
Little Bittern	3	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	3	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	2	3	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Little Egret	3	1	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	5	3	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	6	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	4	3	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	7	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	2	1	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
White-tailed Eagle	2	1	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	7	3	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	4	1	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Common Buzzard	7	2	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
European Honey Buzzard	1	1	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	3	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Northern Goshawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Common Kestrel	7	3	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Red-footed Falcon	3	3	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	3	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Saker Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
Water Rail	-	1h	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Moorhen	4	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	4	4	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Crane	1	2	<i>Grus grus</i>
Great Bustard	1	2	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Pied Avocet	1	3	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	1	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Collared Pratincole	1	3	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Northern Lapwing	6	3	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Common Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	2	1h	<i>Tringa glareola</i>

Green Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Common Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1	1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	1	1	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Eurasian Curlew	3	2	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Whimbrel	2	1	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Ruff	2	4	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	5	4	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	2	3	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Common Tern	2	3	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Black Tern	1	1	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Whiskered Tern	3	4	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Feral Pigeon	8	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	8	3	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	8	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
European Turtle Dove	7	3	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	7	2	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Long-eared Owl	1	1	<i>Asio otus</i>
Tawny Owl	-	1h	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Little Owl	1	1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
European Nightjar	1	1h	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Common Swift	2	2	<i>Apus apus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	6	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Common Kingfisher	2	1	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
European Bee-eater	7	4	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
European Roller	7	3	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>
Black Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
European Green Woodpecker	1	2h	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Syrian Woodpecker	3	1	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	3	4h	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Common Skylark	4	2	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Crested Lark	2	1	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Woodlark	1	1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Common Sand Martin	5	3	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	8	3	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common House Martin	8	3	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Tawny Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Tree Pipit	2	1	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
White Wagtail	6	2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Yellow Wagtail	3	3	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
European Robin	3	4h	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	-	1h	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Black Redstart	5	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	1	1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
European Stonechat	6	2	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Song Thrush	2	1h	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Mistle Thrush	3	2	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Common Blackbird	7	1	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Barred Warbler	3	1	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>
Blackcap	4	3h	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	1	1	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
River Warbler	-	1h	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>
Savi's Warbler	-	5h	<i>Locustella lusciniooides</i>
Sedge Warbler	3	1	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Moustached Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
European Reed Warbler	2	1h	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	3	1	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Wood Warbler	1	1	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Common Chiffchaff	5	2h	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Winter Wren	-	1h	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	1	1h	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>

Great Tit	7		1	<i>Parus major</i>
European Blue Tit	6		2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	1	1h	1	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Bearded Reedling	1		1	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	3	1h	1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	4		1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	3		1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	5		3	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Red-backed Shrike	7		3	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Common Magpie	6		1	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	1	3h	1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Western Jackdaw	3		1	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Rook	2		4	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Hooded Crow	7		3	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
Common Starling	7		5	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Eurasian Golden Oriole	7		2	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
House Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Common Chaffinch	6	1h	1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Common Linnet	2		1	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Goldfinch	7		2	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	4	2h	2	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
European Serin	2		1	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Hawfinch	-	1h	1	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Common Reed Bunting	4		1	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Corn Bunting	5		2	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail		<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail		<i>Iphiclides podalirius</i>
Large White		<i>Pieris brassicae</i>
Small White		<i>Artogeia rapae</i>
Green-veined White		<i>Artogeia napi</i>
Eastern Bath White		<i>Pontia edusa</i>
Pale Clouded Yellow		<i>Colias hyale</i>
Clouded Yellow		<i>Colias crocea</i>
Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow		<i>Colias erate</i>
Brimstone		<i>Gonepteryx rhamni</i>
Wood White		<i>Leptidea sinapis</i>
Eastern Short-tailed Blue		<i>Everes decoloratus</i>
Holly Blue		<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Eastern Baton Blue		<i>Pseudophilotes vicrama</i>
Silver-studded Blue		<i>Plebejus argus</i>
Idas Blue		<i>Plebejus idas</i>
Reverdin's Blue		<i>Plebejus argyrogynomon</i>
Brown Argus		<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue		<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Nettle-tree Butterfly		<i>Libythea celtis</i>
Common Glider		<i>Neptis sappho</i>
Peacock Butterfly		<i>Inachis io</i>
Red Admiral		<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Painted Lady		<i>Vanessa cardui</i>
Comma Butterfly		<i>Polygonia c-album</i>
Map Butterfly		<i>Araschnia levana</i>
Cardinal		<i>Argynnis pandora</i>
Queen of Spain Fritillary		<i>Issoria lathonia</i>
Knapweed Fritillary		<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>
Lesser Spotted Fritillary		<i>Melitaea trivia</i>
Marbled White		<i>Melanargia galathea</i>
Meadow Brown		<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Small Heath		<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Speckled Wood		<i>Pararge aegeria</i>

Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
Mallow Skipper	<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Dingy Skipper	<i>Erynnis tages</i>

MOTHS (*all except ** were identified in the moth trap on 15th)

Small Lappet	<i>Phyllodesma ilicifolia</i>
Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>
Lunar Thorn	<i>Selenia lunularia</i>
Pine Hawkmoth	<i>Hyloicus pinastri</i>
Poplar Hawkmoth	<i>Laothoe populi</i>
Hummingbird Hawkmoth*	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>
Spurge Hawkmoth	<i>Hyles euphorbiae</i>
Small Elephant Hawkmoth	<i>Deilephila porcellus</i>
Chocolate-tip	<i>Closteria curtula</i>
Buff-tip	<i>Phalera bucephala</i>
Lobster Moth	<i>Stauropus fagi</i>
White Ermine	<i>Spilosoma lubricipeda</i>
Nine-spotted*	<i>Amata phegea</i>
Geometrician*	<i>Prodotis stolida</i>
Beautiful Hook-tip	<i>Laspeyria flexula</i>

DRAGONFLIES

Southern Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes barbarus</i>
Small Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes virens</i>
Willow Emerald Damselfly	<i>Lestes viridis</i>
Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>
Dainty Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion scitulum</i>
Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma najas</i>
Small Red-eyed Damselfly	<i>Erythromma viridulum</i>
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>
Southern Migrant Hawker	<i>Aeshna affinis</i>
Norfolk Hawker	<i>Aeshna isoceles</i>
Emperor	<i>Anax imperator</i>
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>
Yellow-spotted Emerald	<i>Somatochlora flavomaculata</i>
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>
Large White-faced Darter	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>
Ruddy Darter	<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>
Southern Darter	<i>Sympetrum meridionale</i>
Scarlet Darter	<i>Crocothemis erythraea</i>

MAMMALS

Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>
European Suslik	<i>Spermophilus citellus</i>
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax kl. esculentus</i>
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>

FRESHWATER FISH

Bleak
Grass Carp
Common Carp
Pike
Chub
Rudd
Wels Catfish

Alburnus alburnus
Ctenopharyngodon idella
Cyprinus carpio
Esox lucius
Leuciscus cephalus
Scardinius erythrophthalmus
Silurus glanis

Notes on the checklists

The bird list broadly follows the order, nomenclature and taxonomy of the Collins Bird Guide 2nd Edition (Svensson et al, 2009) which we used throughout the week.

The guide was reprinted in 2015, and the new version contains a small number of significant changes.

In the checklist, birds with the same genus are listed together, even if this means the order is slightly different from that in Collins.

The butterfly list follows the Collins Butterfly Guide 2nd Edition (Tolman and Lewington, 2008).

The moth list follows the Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland (Waring, Townsend and Lewington, 2003).

The dragonfly list follows the Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Europe (Dijkstra and Lewington, 2006).

These lists represent the birds, butterflies, moths, dragonflies, amphibians, reptiles and freshwater fish recorded by the group members on this tour.



Cardinal



Eastern Pale Clouded Yellow



Common Glider



Reverdin's Blue



Nine-spotted



Buff-tip



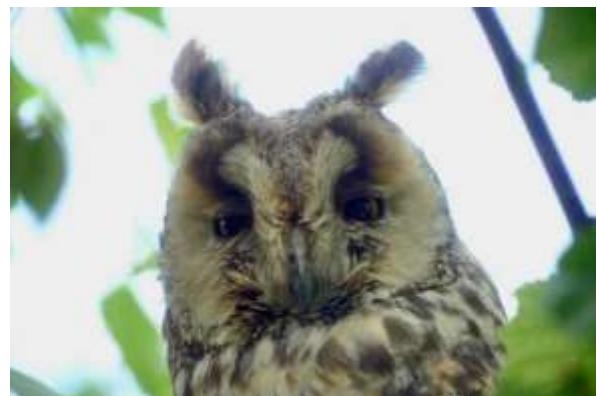
Syrian Woodpecker



White Storks at nest



European Bee-eater



Long-eared Owl



Great Bustard



Lesser Grey Shrike



Eurasian Hoopoe



Moustached Warbler

Front Cover: Red-footed Falcon

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