

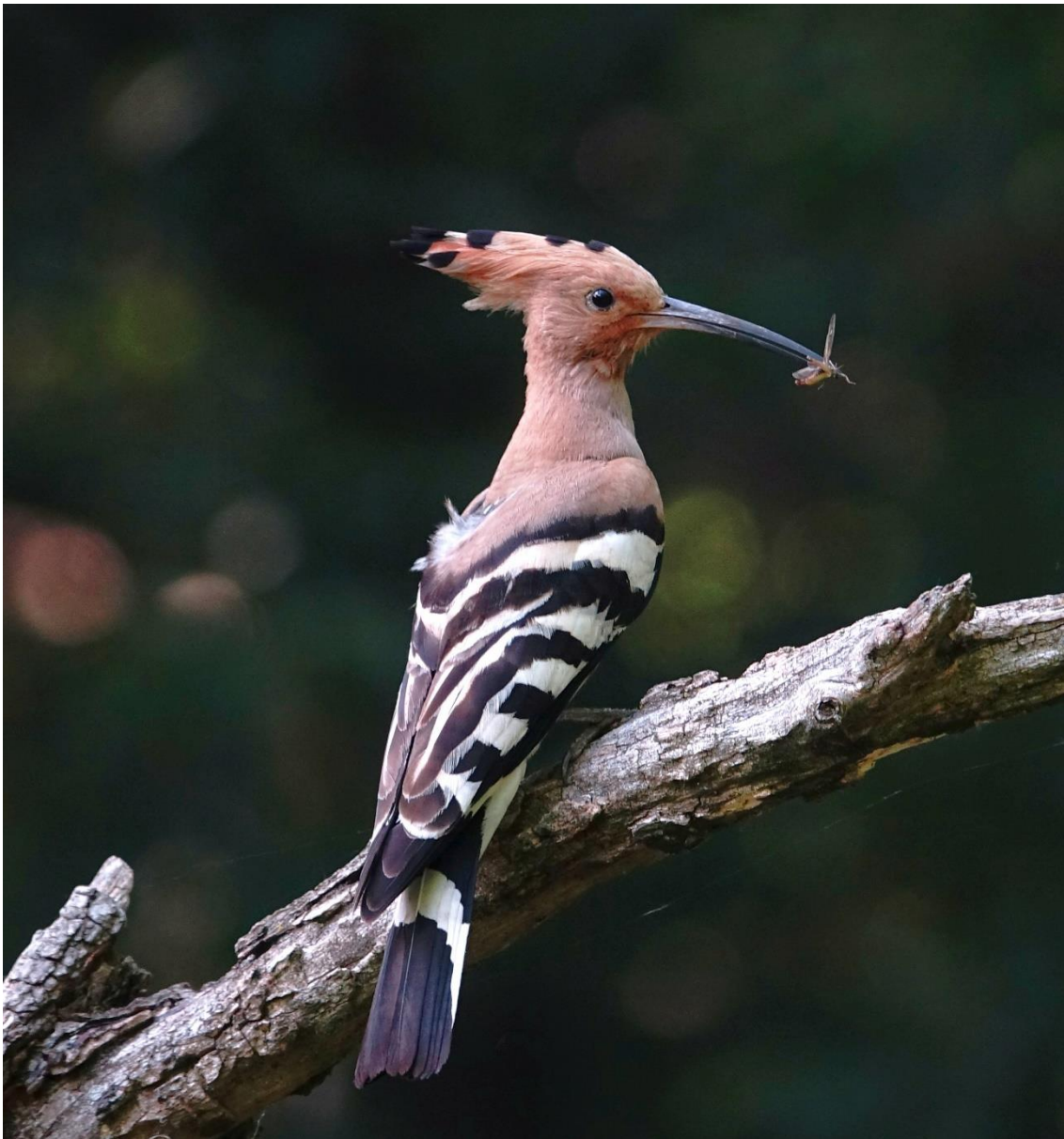
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HUNGARY

Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies



Three pairs of Eurasian Hoopoes were nesting in the gardens of Kondor Lodge during the tour © Jeremy Aldred

HUNGARY

Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies

6-13 June 2023

Leaders: David Walsh and Gábor Orbán

Introduction

This was Limosa's first natural history tour to the Kiskunság National Park since the pandemic and, as usual, there was high quality birding as well as a wide range of other wildlife, and we thoroughly enjoyed being in such unspoilt and varied landscapes. The weather was warm rather than hot this year and, although it was changeable, we managed to stay dry.

We started by exploring the puszta and woodland close to our lodge; it held a breeding colony of Bee-eaters as well as staggering numbers of Rollers, several Lesser Grey Shrikes and Tawny Pipits, plus pairs of Montagu's Harrier and Honey Buzzard. Dusk birding was exciting with Nightjars and Scops Owls just minutes from our base.

The highlights of a visit to the north were seeing a pair of Eastern Imperial Eagles and witnessing a Great Bustard in full display, with a dozen other males nearby; on our way back we found Saker Falcons in typical pose on their chosen pylon. In the west we watched Red-footed Falcons at a small colony, with large numbers of Whiskered Terns feeding over nearby lakes and two White-tailed Eagles soaring overhead.

To the east, close to the Tisza river, we watched a pair of Penduline Tits at the nest and enjoyed the spectacle of a wetland teeming with an array of waterbirds including Pygmy Cormorant; a nearby forest produced Middle Spotted Woodpecker. Lake Kolon in the south held singing Bluethroats whilst a nearby channel played host to a remarkably confiding Great Reed Warbler.

Cardinal © Jeremy Aldred

Butterflies were numerous, especially in the flower-rich meadows, although because it was a late spring some of our potential targets were missing. Nevertheless, we saw 32 species including Short-tailed Blue, Nettle-tree Butterfly, Lesser Purple Emperor, Cardinal, Queen



of Spain and Lesser Spotted Fritillaries and a bonus Tufted Marbled Skipper. The group also made the most of the opportunities to study the dragonflies and we tallied 17 species including Southern Darter, Downy and Yellow-spotted Emeralds and Southern Emerald Damselfly.



Downy Emerald © Jeremy Aldred

Kondor Eco-Lodge proved to be an ideal base from which to explore, with early morning strolls into the woods and across the fields highly productive; we also made use of the photographic hides at the garden ponds where the views of Hawfinches in particular were incredible! Three pairs of Hoopoes had taken up residence in the garden this year and it was wonderful watching

them feed their young at the nest boxes.

We were served a range of traditional Hungarian dishes, and Gábor and Andrea did everything possible to make us feel at home. Gábor is not simply a 'local bird guide'; he is passionate about Hungarian culture, history and politics, and Andrea is not only an experienced guide but also a wonderful cook!

As a one-centre holiday at a relaxed pace with a wide variety of wildlife close by and some highly sought-after birds not much further away, this trip is hard to beat! I have been privileged to head to the Kiskunság on six occasions. Limosa will once again be running this tour in June 2024.

David Walsh

Trip Diary

Tuesday 6th June

Our British Airways flight from Heathrow took just over two hours and we landed in Budapest at 5.10pm local time. Passport control and baggage reclaim were remarkably quick and efficient, and it wasn't long before we met up with Gábor who I was delighted to be teaming up with once again for our sixth tour together.

Our 70 minute journey took us along a motorway, then a series of country roads, and at 7pm we arrived at Kondor Eco-Lodge, our base for the whole week, situated in the heart of the Kiskunság National Park. We were welcomed by Andrea, received our keys, and had time to settle in before we reconvened at 7.50pm for a quick tour of the garden hides prior to our 8pm dinner. Tonight, we enjoyed cream of onion soup, followed by chicken with rice and potato then cottage cheese and sweet cherry pies for dessert. The vegetarian and gluten free options were equally well-received. This set the tone for the week: tasty, home-cooked food, beautifully prepared for us by Andrea and Kata.

Wednesday 7th June

Overnight rain, cloudy am, becoming partly sunny pm, humid, 15-24°C

We woke to find the overnight rain had stopped and were serenaded by a dawn chorus of Black Redstart, Cuckoo, Golden Oriole, Turtle Dove and Hoopoe! Some of the group got up early and took advantage of their first opportunity to watch and photograph the Hawfinches posing right in front of one of the pond hides; these showed regularly every morning and it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see this usually elusive species 'up close and personal'. Others strolled across the road and found a male Montagu's Harrier, a singing Woodlark and our first write-in: Raven. A Cream-spot Tiger moth was found sitting on one of the tables outside the restaurant.

At 8am we met for breakfast. The well-stocked table included cereals, yoghurts, salad, a variety of cold meats and cheeses, pastries, fresh jam, oranges, bananas and apples and we were left to create our own picnic lunches to suit our individual needs.

We set off in the bus at 9am on a circular drive, covering just 12 kilometres in four hours which allowed plenty of time for regular stops and short walks. We paused after just a couple of minutes alongside a field with horses. On the pond, we found a Lapwing chick with its parent, and nearby there was a Tawny Pipit on a hay bale and a female Red-backed Shrike. Our first notable butterfly was a Chestnut Heath alongside the track.

Soon we arrived at a spot where Bee-eaters were breeding in numbers, with many using holes in the ground right next to the track. The views were wonderful, as the birds allowed close approach. Once past their breeding area, we strolled by some disused buildings where we found Crested Larks and singing Corn Buntings and watched children on a horse and cart: a school trip with a difference!

Pausing again by a church in an isolated copse, we marvelled at the fields full of Yellow Rattle and discussed the fact that its abundance is a good indicator of a rich meadow. A mystery moth was identified as Marbled Clover. Gábor talked to us about the success of the nest box programme in helping boost the population of Rollers and, as he did so, we watched one on a wire alongside Kestrel, Bee-eater and Hoopoe! A group of five Golden Orioles flew from the copse and we had nice flight views but hoped to see a perched one before too long.

With time marching on, my thoughts had already turned to lunch, but Gábor had two species up his sleeve! First, we stopped at a spot where a pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes was nesting. We had superb views of an adult perched on a post then a bale, one of the 'must-see' birds on this tour safely ticked off in style.



Lesser Grey Shrike © David Walsh

Just before we reached the main road, we scanned for Sousliks. This charismatic mammal is an important species on the Hungarian plains, being a key food source for raptors, and we found one close to the bus.

We had certainly had a splendid first morning and there was plenty to discuss as we enjoyed our picnic and relaxed over a coffee at the lodge.

Although there was time for a short siesta, some chose to stroll in the grounds, finding Broad-bodied Chaser, Grass Snake, Cardinal and a butterfly which I assumed was a Mallow Skipper but turned out to be Tufted Marbled Skipper, a first for the garden and a lifer for everyone who saw it. Those observing from one of the hides saw Spotted Flycatcher and photographed a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

We set off again at 3pm, crossing the road and heading along a track which took us towards an area where, in the past, a lake had formed, Lake Kondor, historically one of the major wetlands in the Kiskunság. In most recent years it has, unfortunately, been dry, and Gábor gave us the background to this.

The sun had appeared, and we saw our first Pale Clouded Yellow as well as our only Lesser Spotted Fritillary of the week. A Marsh Warbler sang from deep in the bushes; it was

wonderful listening to its varied mimicry. Two male and one female Montagu's Harriers were found, and it was instructive comparing the flight silhouette with the accompanying Marsh Harriers.

We arrived back at 5.10pm and met to do our bird list in the garden at 6.30pm knowing that we needed to be efficient as the soup would be on the table at precisely 7pm! Dinner tonight was a filling pork and bean soup followed by traditional Hungarian pasta with cottage cheese. We were in fine form after an excellent first full day in the field and discussed the abundance of wildlife within just a few kilometres of our base.

A post dinner recce found Nightjar at 8.45pm (expected) and Scops Owl at 9.10pm (most unexpected for me) plus a singing Quail; I looked forward to returning with the whole group later in the week.

Thursday 8th June

Cloudy then hazy sunshine, 16-25°C

We set off at 9am on the hour-long journey to the north of the Kiskunság National Park making an impromptu stop enroute to enjoy a Little Owl also seeing Sand Martins and another Crested Lark for good measure. This section of road remains poorly maintained, and Gábor says every year that the worse the road the better the birds! Our first official port of call was at Hosszúhát, a small man-made hill overlooking an expanse of puszta.

With pleasant temperatures and minimal heat haze, it was an ideal place to scan over the forest. Our timing was perfect as, almost at once, we found a pair of Eastern Imperial Eagles with the birds soaring for ages allowing everyone repeated scope views of this Globally Threatened species.



European Bee-eater © David Walsh

A pair of Montagu's Harriers was hunting over the grasslands, whilst male Whinchats were in song. There were fewer butterflies than on some of my previous visits but we still found Silver-studded Blue and Brown Argus as well as our first White-legged Damselfly.

Next, Gábor took us to a Bee-eater 'wall' where, using the minibus as a hide, we had incredible views as the birds perched up and flew around in the vicinity of their nest holes; it was wonderful to hear the liquid calls as well as enjoy the views. Satiated, we headed off, but in fact we paused again moments later as an Icterine Warbler was in song. The bird wasn't keen to show itself, but most of us saw it in flight, and as a bonus, we found our first Southern Darter, with our photos good enough to show why it was Southern rather than Common.



Southern Darter © David Walsh

A little further north, we stopped at the first of two viewing platforms. This area was very flat, and gaining even a small amount of elevation was highly beneficial when scanning the fields. We had been there for less than a minute when Gábor announced he had found a group of Great Bustards! We counted 12 and they were most likely to be young males. Although they were distant, we were very pleased to see them as on some previous tours this species had been difficult to find.

At a second platform just up the road we found another male, and this one started to perform its full display! We were very fortunate to witness such an incredible spectacle in June, as normally it is something which only occurs much earlier in spring. The eagle-eyed members of our party spotted a female nearby.

Jubilant, we headed into the town of Bugy where we relaxed outside a wonderful cake shop as the owners had kindly allowed us to eat our picnic there which we supplemented with various provisions from their establishment including some very fine ice creams!

Eventually it was time to stir ourselves and move on. We located a White Stork nest and spent a few minutes watching the pair as the birds sat proudly on top of the huge structure, one of many highlights of our epic day!

Gábor took us to a tower hide overlooking a vast area of fishponds which had a roof and, crucially, new steps to allow easier access! We found Red-crested and Common Pochards, a close female Ferruginous Duck and distant Yellow-legged Gulls. We glimpsed Bearded Tits, heard our first Savi's Warbler, watched flying Purple Herons but the perched Spoonbills stole the show.

Rather than retrace our steps, we drove on from the hide, turning left along the back of the fishponds. To our left, a pool held much larger numbers of both Pochard species. We then walked along a bank on the opposite side. Our target here was Bluethroat and, by walking a little further along, we soon found one at close range sitting on a fence post. Some of the group were fortunate to see the white spot on the throat, all of us saw the typical posture with tail cocked. Two more were found song fighting in the distance. We heard snatches of song but the Sedge Warblers behind us were much louder!



Bluethroat © Jeremy Aldred

We popped in at a copse where, in the past, there had been a Red-footed Falcon colony but this year the Rooks had nested late and were still in situ.

There was time for one more stop and from the road, we scoped a Saker Falcon nest box on a very distant pylon and were amazed to find all four family members sitting nearby! A fifth bird, seen in flight, gave us a better idea of how big this species is. Astonishingly as I put the scope back on the perched birds for one last look, a male Great Bustard flew left to right across the field of view!

Tired, but thrilled with what we had seen, we arrived back at 6.05pm, meeting an hour later to run through the checklist prior to dinner which was at 7.30pm. On the menu was lentil soup then sausages, potato and red cabbage, with various desserts, naturally, having been purchased at the cake shop!

A quick stroll down the road found the Scops Owl calling at very close range, but irritatingly (and unusually) traffic noise was an issue tonight.

Friday 9th June

Thunderstorms and rain overnight and early am, soon drying up then cloudy, becoming sunny late pm, 15-23°C

The light sleepers amongst us had a difficult night with thunderstorms persisting for a while, and it was still raining heavily at our departure time of 9am. Gábor and I scrutinised the weather radar and, after much deliberation, we set off in a westerly direction, confident things would be better at our destination.

It was hard to believe but, yes, it was indeed dry as we arrived at a small copse close to some reedy pools. We scoped another Little Owl then got back in the minibus and positioned it hoping to find Red-footed Falcons perching up close by; success was limited at this stage, but we had cracking views of Tree Sparrows and saw our first Clouded Yellow.

We continued down a rough track to an enormous area of alkaline lakes at Böddi-szék. In the past we had used the picnic tables here, but the area had been taken over by the local flock of sheep! The tower hide gave panoramic views and we found a number of Avocets and Black-winged Stilts, several Shelducks and a pair of Ruff. We strolled for a while, but there was no sign of the Dark Spreadwing damselflies we had found on previous tours. As we returned to the bus, the corvids alerted us to the presence of a raptor. Not one but two subadult White-tailed Eagles were spotted soaring around together; we had marvellous views for ages having earlier seen one of them on a very distant hay bale.

Having returned to the copse and reedy pools, we walked to a spot giving us extra elevation. On the water we found a drake Garganey, as well as Shoveler and Teal and had super views of more Black-winged Stilts. A group of Wood Sandpipers called and dropped in. The main attraction here was Whiskered Tern with large numbers feeding in front of us; the Black Tern we spotted amongst them was incidental really.



Red-footed Falcon (female) © David Walsh

We turned our attention to the trees and had much better looks at both male and female Red-footed Falcons, both perched and in flight. There was a small colony here making use of next boxes, clearly the next best thing to a Rookery!

We had our picnic in the grounds of a restaurant before making the short drive to Kigyós oxbow lake. Despite the cloudy conditions it was warm enough for dragonflies to be flying, and we saw Lesser Emperors and Norfolk Hawkers, managing to get scope views of the latter. A Dainty Damselfly was leader-only, but because I called out about it the group were looking in the right direction when an adult Night Heron flew by!

Nightingales were plentiful but remained hidden. Two Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers were more obliging, and some of us had good views of a Penduline Tit before it headed back into cover.

We returned to the restaurant where the ice creams proved irresistible to many! The meadow held a female Scarlet Darter for those who went wandering, and we all saw Southern Emerald Damselfly and Great Reed Warbler at the pond.

With the skies lifting we visited a woodland patch at a Forest School, a new destination for me. Our stroll to a heathy clearing produced Smooth Snake as well as Southern Festoon caterpillars feeding on Birthwort.

We returned at 5.55pm. Our dinner of pea soup, chicken and potatoes then poppy seed cakes was at 7.15pm tonight. We reflected on a day of excellent sightings without the need for our waterproofs.

Saturday 10th June

Mainly fine, odd light showers, becoming sunny later, 16-25°C

Some of us met at 6.45am for a circular pre-breakfast stroll into the forest with our highlights being singing Wood Warbler, Tree Pipit and Yellowhammer, none of which showed themselves.

We left at 9am as usual and headed east for an hour or so, arriving in a clearing adjacent to an area of woodland at Töserdő. Mosquitoes were an irritation as we strolled along a track through the forest, finding Nine-spotted, a colourful day-flying moth. We saw Middle Spotted Woodpeckers in two locations; some of us managed good views through the binoculars but none of the birds sat still for long. A Black Woodpecker drummed and called but that was it as a fallen tree meant we were unable to go as far as on previous visits.

The middle part of the day was spent in and around the picturesque town of Tiszaalpár. After a thought-provoking history lesson next to a monument illustrating the break-up of Hungary in times past, we made for a viewpoint with a wonderful panoramic view of the adjacent wetland. There were a number of people in the area who were part of a local festival. We scoped Great and Pygmy Cormorants, Night and Squacco Herons, Spoonbills and Great Egrets, but perhaps due to the lack of sunshine there was no sign of any Black Storks soaring over the trees.

We picnicked on benches in the churchyard, Gábor providing coffee and tea which was most welcome! Yet another Lesser Spotted Woodpecker showed splendidly, and we found an Eastern Bath White in the grass.

A stroll towards the wetlands took us to a 'stake-out' Penduline Tit nest and it was fun watching the adults at their intricate construction. The nearby grassland held Ruddy Darter, Black-tailed Skimmer and, best of all, Short-tailed Blue. The muddy conditions meant there was no chance of heading further along the path.

We saw a Swift overhead and glimpsed a Syrian Woodpecker before heading to a nearby café for drinks and more ice creams!

For our final stop, we made for a 'country park' at Lakitelek where Gábor fully expected a male Collared Flycatcher to oblige in its usual clearing. Unfortunately, it had stopped singing, and I was the only person to see it. A Wryneck was a little more co-operative, and we all had views of Short-toed Treecreeper and a roosting Night Heron.

We declared at 5pm in order to arrive back for our normal routine prior to dinner. The main course was a traditional dish of potatoes, sausages and eggs with sour cream on top. We had seen some good birds and insects today, but there was also a sense of frustration with the woodland species having been difficult.

Sunday 11th June

Fine, sunny spells, breezy pm, 14-23°C

Three Ravens, presumably a family group, were noted over the lodge this morning, whilst some of the group continued to enjoy the Hawfinch fest at the ponds!



Hawfinch © David Walsh

Today was to be a more local day and first we returned to the track left of the 'Souslik field'. Our bus provided excellent viewing and we enjoyed a pair of Red-backed Shrikes and another

Tawny Pipit plus more point-blank Bee-eaters and Rollers. A Wheatear at its usual spot proved remarkably elusive.



European Roller © David Walsh

Eventually, we finished our cross-country excursion and arrived at a proper road! We parked up and strolled along the Peszéradacs trail which Gábor explained was designed to be representative of the variety of dry and wet woodland of the Kiskunság. The trail was quiet for birds, but there were plenty of butterflies including numerous Cardinals. A Map Butterfly was only glimpsed as it sped away but our second Lesser Purple Emperor showed its purple as it searched for minerals on the track.

At the far end of the trail, there was a meadow adjacent to a cemetery, giving useful elevation from which to scan the fields. There was no sign of the resident Grasshopper Warbler, but we all heard a Quail, saw a Fallow Deer and had splendid views of singing Corn Bunting and Whinchat. A distant 'Garden Warbler' was heard, and then seen song flighting: it was a Barred Warbler. I really hoped we would all see it properly, but it stopped singing and flew away which was very frustrating.

Gábor returned to collect the bus and drove us back to the café where we had our picnic which was unusually busy as there had been a fishing competition! We watched an Emperor Dragonfly patrolling the pond as we enjoyed ice creams and a variety of drinks.

We drove a short distance to an area of heathland with small copses. Gábor had visited this site several times recently without seeing White-tailed Eagles so he was delighted when we saw not one but two, an adult and an immature. A mystery call seemed to be coming from the bushes but was in fact an eagle high above us. A stroll through the copse produced a 'heard only' Syrian Woodpecker and fabulous views of Queen of Spain Fritillaries plus our first Large Skipper, whilst a Savi's Warbler reeled on the other side of the track.

As we drove back to the road a Common Swallowtail came and went then we stopped briefly at a spot where Gábor explained the significance of a typical 'Transylvania Gate' at the entrance to a house. We paused at another channel before I decided we should return to

base given we were going to have a post dinner outing. We arrived back at 3.40pm; some had a siesta, others headed for the hides, whilst some of us did a short walk finding a photogenic Silver-studded Blue and a less co-operative Hummingbird Hawkmoth.

We reconvened at 6.15pm prior to our 6.45pm dinner. Tonight, we were joined by a couple travelling independently and found they were from Suffolk!

Our evening excursion was brilliantly successful, with Nightjars heard and seen well then a calling Scops Owl perching on its favourite wire!

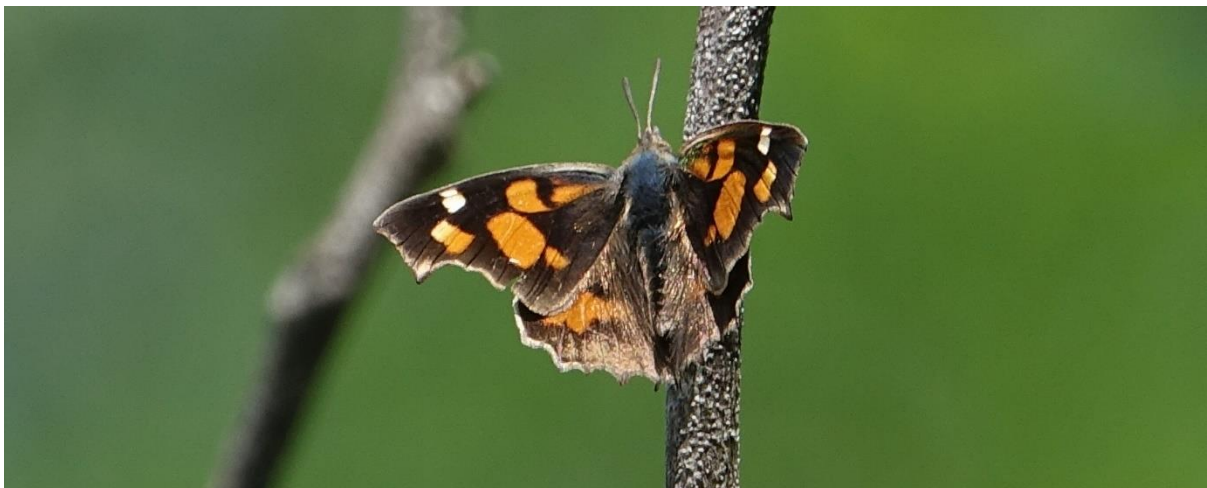
Monday 12th June

Fine, mainly sunny, breezy, 13-23°C

The pre-breakfast highlight for some of us was a prolonged look at the local Red Squirrel which fed and drank in front of the hides before 'swimming' across the water: very daring!

At 9am, with the weather set fair, we headed south-west on a 45-minute journey to explore a number of sites on the edge of Lake Kolon. Gábor explained how the open water on a small fraction of it has been recreated in recent years as previously the 'lake' had become a large reedbed.

At our first stop, there were two tower hides and a screen. From the first, we found three male Bluethroats sitting on top of the reeds and although these were distant, most of us had passable scope views. There was little else to detain us so before long we headed back towards the minibus; enroute we compared Azure and Variable Damselflies and some saw a Common Emerald Damselfly, our only one of the week. There was plenty of interest in the flowers near the bus, the highlights being a Nettle-tree Butterfly and a newly emerged Yellow-spotted Emerald; we had excellent views of the former, whilst the latter fluttered up into the canopy on its maiden flight.



Nettle-tree Butterfly © Jeremy Aldred

We drove further south, to a spot where in the past we have taken a boat trip. This year, unfortunately, the boatman was away but, in any case, the wind would have put paid to any thoughts of heading out onto the open water. Instead, we strolled to a viewpoint from where

we saw a distant Hobby and chatted to a group of Biology students; on the way we saw yet another Lesser Purple Emperor, this one at eye level! Returning, we scrutinised what were thought at the time were more Yellow-spotted Emeralds, but close examination of the photos at lunchtime showed that they were Downy Emeralds; 2023 was proving to be a very late season for dragonflies, with the early ones still on the wing and sadly no sign of any Large White-faced Darters, normally the 'must see' insect in this area.

We strolled around a nature trail close to the ringing centre, seeing a very confiding female Eastern Green Lizard, before making for a boardwalk leading to another hide overlooking the reeds.

Eventually, it was time to leave the lake behind and move to a different habitat. Soltzentimre Pusztá is a large undisturbed area of grassland, but it was the adjacent channel which occupied us for much of the time. From a bridge we watched a mating pair of Lesser Emperors and a little further along we spent ages watching an amazingly showy Great Reed Warbler, its mouth wide open as it sang; '*Bird of the Week*' for some.

Over the grassland, we had excellent looks at feeding Red-footed Falcons. A male Adonis Blue was leader-only as we made for a tower hide which gave excellent panoramic views but was rickety to say the least. Gábor found five distant Great Bustards and they showed to those first up the tower before disappearing into the grass; it was good we had seen this species earlier in the tour!

A pair of 'Blue-headed' Yellow Wagtails was seen shortly after we began our return journey. We arrived back at base at 5.50pm and ran through the checklist an hour later prior to our 7.15pm dinner. Tonight's menu included cauliflower bake, two different soups (French bean and potato/sausage) plus rice with vegetable and mushroom.

It was great to have the opportunity to say a proper thank you to Gábor and Andrea and reflect on our week not only in terms of the wildlife but also the tasty food and fine hospitality we had all enjoyed so much.

Tuesday 13th June

Sunny, calm, 11-22°C

Today's pre-breakfast highlights included seeing a Tree Pipit at the ponds and having the chance to photograph and video the pair of Hoopoes attending the nest box by the gate, another magical experience!

After our final breakfast together, we made the short journey in the minibus to the 'souslik field' just a mile away. A Souslik was there to greet us and it sat up and ran around for ages! We had no need to linger, so headed part of the way back towards the lodge and parked up at a small copse which took us down a track to the left of the main meadow. We had splendid views of a Lesser Grey Shrike which kept returning to a spot on one of the tallest trees; it made an unusual call which was new for Gábor.

Raptors dominated the next period. We were used to Marsh Harriers and Common Buzzards, so a bird holding its wings superficially like a kite drew my attention. Through the scope the upperwing markings and tail shape confirmed it was a dark morph Booted Eagle, Gábor's first in the area for eleven months so a worthy write-in. The resident pair of Montagu's Harrier was still present but remained frustratingly distant. I continued to scan above the trees behind us and, finally, had success. A male Honey Buzzard soared up high into the sky and gave us an awesome show, displaying by remaining stationary and raising its wings together above its body, a new sight for most of the group. A female joined it for a while. Yet another candidate for *Bird of the Week*!

A little after 11am we declared and headed back to base. We had a couple of hours to pack, have lunch, do the final checklist, purchase mugs and settle our accounts.

At 1.30pm we bade farewell to Andrea and loaded the bus for the hour-long journey back to the airport. We made just one unplanned stop, for a male Golden Oriole which flew across the road and perched up, allowing some on the left of the bus to see it: unbelievably good fortune!

The journey went so smoothly we had time for a coffee before checking in at 3.50pm. Our 6.10pm flight was delayed by 25 minutes, but British Airways made up most of the time so we landed just five minutes behind schedule, at 7.55pm. Baggage came slowly but eventually we said our goodbyes and went our separate ways.

Many thanks to the group for your company, willingness to learn new things, punctuality and positivity towards the splendid Hungarian cuisine. Thanks too to Gábor for all his expertise, knowledge and driving and of course to Andrea and Kata for looking after us so well at the lodge.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS RECORDED

(132 species seen/heard by the group)

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

20+ at Apaj fishponds on 8 June, Böddi-szék (9 June) and Tiszaalpár wetlands (10 June).

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

A pair with cygnets at Kigyós (9 June); c.30 at Tiszaalpár wetlands (10 June).

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

c.10 at Böddi-szék on 9 June.

Garganey *Spatula querquedula*

We had good scope views of a drake on a reedy pool at Böddi-szék on 9 June.

Northern Shoveler *Spatula clypeata*

Three on a reedy pool near Böddi-szék 9 June.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Seen in small numbers on five dates.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Three on the reedy pools near Böddi-szék 9 June.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

c.40 at Apaj fishponds (8 June). We had scope views of drakes from the tower before finding many more in another trackside pool as we drove round to the far side.

Common Pochard *Aythya farina*

An impressive count of c.30 at Apaj fishponds (8 June).



Ferruginous Duck © Jeremy Aldred

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

We had exceptionally close views of a female from the tower at Apaj fishponds on 8 June.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Seen and heard in ones and twos every day.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix* [H]

Singles were heard in the meadow across the road from our lodge at dusk on 7 June and at the far end of the Peszéradacs trail on 11 June.

European Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Three birds, including two churring males, were noted from 8.40pm onwards in the forest clearing close to our lodge on 7 June during a recce, and for the whole group on 11 June; we had super flight views in good light. In addition, one was seen at dusk feeding in the mist over the meadow across the road on 8 June.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Just one, over the churchyard at Tiszaalpár on 10 June.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

We had unprecedented success with this species, not least because two new viewing towers have been constructed south of Bugyi. We found a group of 12 males from one of these on 8 June and then had the privilege of watching a male in full display with a female nearby from the other one.

The same afternoon, in another unforgettable moment, we saw a male fly past as we were looking at Saker Falcons near Szabadszállás!

On 12 June, five males were located from the tower hide at Soltzentimre Puszta, but they soon disappeared into the vegetation.

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Heard daily and seen on several occasions during the week.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Noted daily, mainly as we drove through urban areas.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Common and widespread and seen every day.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

We enjoyed hearing and seeing this species every day during the tour. At the lodge we could hear one purring from our rooms most days and it put in several appearances at the ponds.

European Turtle Dove © Jeremy Aldred



Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seen most days in suitable locations.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Singles at Kigyós (9 June), Tiszaalpár (10 June) and from the bridge at Soltzentimre Puszta (12 June).

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*

10 at Apaj fishponds on 8 June, five on the reedy pools near Böddi-szék (9 June) and one at Tiszaalpár wetlands (10 June).

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Two at Apaj fishponds (8 June), six at Tiszaalpár wetlands (10 June), two at Lake Kolon (12 June).

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus Himantopus*

We had splendid views of c.30 in the Böddi-szék area on 9 June, with birds on both the alkaline lakes and the reedy pools (for comparison, we only saw two there in 2019).

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

One at Apaj fishponds 8 June; c10 on the alkaline lakes at Böddi-szék (10 June).

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Noted on three dates. We saw an adult with a chick at Kunpuszta, small numbers on territory in both the north and south of the National Park and finally a post-breeding flock of c.50 near Apaj fishponds.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

One in flight over Soltzentimre Puszta on 12 June.

Ruff *Calidris pugnax*

A resplendent male in breeding plumage, plus a female, were found from the tower at Böddi-szék on 9 June.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

One at Apaj fishponds on 8 June with 10+ at Böddi-szék the following day.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Four flew into a distant reedy pool near Böddi-szék on 9 June which we identified on call.

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

One near Bugyi on 8 June. Much larger numbers at Böddi-szék (9 June) and at the breeding site in the Tiszaalpár wetlands (10 June).

Mediterranean Gull *Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus*

The distinctive flight call alerted us to two from the north tower at Bugyi on 8 June and four over Böddi-szék the following day.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Three from the tower at Apaj fishponds on 8 June were distant and not given much attention!

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Singles at Apaj fishponds on 8 June and Kigyos channel the following day were our only sightings.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

We had wonderful views of perhaps 100 in total on 9 June around the reedy pools at Böddi-szék. Ten over the Tiszaalpár wetlands the following day were more distant.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

One over a reedy pool at Böddi-szék on 9 June disappeared all too quickly.

White Storks © David Walsh

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Seen daily in small numbers, with some memorable sightings of birds feeding in newly mown hay fields and on their enormous nests, most notably the one at Bugyi.



Pygmy Cormorant *Microcarbo pygmaeus*

30+ at Tiszaalpár wetlands on 10 June included perched birds seen well through the scopes and others in flight. We were able to compare the size and shape of this species with the more familiar Great Cormorant.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

c.50 at Tiszaalpár wetlands on 10 June.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

We found five at Apaj fishponds on 8 June and three at Tiszaalpár wetlands (10 June).

[Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* – leader only]

Gábor saw one along the channel at Kigyos but it eluded the rest of us.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

One in flight at Kigyós 9 June was seen fleetingly. At least ten gave excellent views both in flight and perched at Tiszaalpár on 10 June, with both adults and immatures seen. Later the same day, we scoped an adult at Lakitelek.

Squacco Heron *Ardeola ralloides*

Two at Tiszaalpár wetlands on 10 June were seen well in flight and perched.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Recorded on five dates with a maximum of 15 at Apaj fishponds on 8 June.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

1-2 noted on four dates. All our sightings were of birds in flight.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Up to three seen on four dates.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Three in flight over Böddi-szék (9 June) with singles at Tiszaalpár and Lakitelek the following day.

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

We had prolonged views of a displaying male close to Kondor lodge on our last morning (13 June), a female joining it as it soared above us. Our last 'new bird', and one of the tour's real highlights.

Booted Eagle *Hieraaetus pennatus*

A dark morph adult was seen distantly across the road from Kondor lodge on our last morning (13 June). It was distant and the identification took a while to clinch before we were able to relax and simply enjoy it!

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

We timed our arrival perfectly at the Hosszúhát 'hill' on 8 June, with a majestic pair of this species appearing above the forest and soaring around for ages. The birds were distant, but we were able to see the key plumage markings through the scopes, as well as the birds' structure.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Seen daily in small numbers. We had some excellent views of both male and females.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

A male was seen across the road from our lodge (7 June). This meadow is the site of the original lake, Kondor-tó. Two males and a female were seen there later the same day, with

the resident pair noted again on 13 June. We watched another pair from the Hosszúhát 'hill' on 8 June.



White-tailed Eagle © Jeremy Aldred

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

We had stunning views of this species on two dates. At Böddi-szék (9 June) two immatures soared at close range with a large number of corvids in tow. Two days later, an adult and an immature flew out of a heathland copse near Kunadacs and were well-watched. One of the birds gave a call which was only recognised by Gábor, so it was very instructive for the rest of us!

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Seen daily in small numbers.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

One was spotted on a roadside wire as we drove from the airport to our lodge on 6 June. We had scope views of singles en route to Bugyi on 8 June and at the Red-footed Falcon colony near Böddi-szék the following day.

Eurasian Scops Owl *Otus scops*

We were thrilled to locate three territorial males close to Kondor lodge during the week. One of them used a particular stretch of telegraph wires as a hunting perch and we saw it there on three occasions and were fortunate enough to scope it around 9.15pm on 11 June, a real bonus after our successful Nightjar mission.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco* [H]

A female called briefly close to our lodge at dusk on 11 June.

Eurasian Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Three pairs have nested in the lodge grounds this year! One of the males called incessantly each morning and we had incredible views of a pair feeding young at one of the nest boxes

towards the end of our stay. Elsewhere, we noted a small number on the Kunpuszta on both visits and had occasional sightings elsewhere.



European Roller © Jeremy Aldred

European Roller *Coracias garrulus*

“Just another Roller” – who would have thought that would be our comment after the first couple of days, such had been the quality and frequency of our views. We noted Rollers on every single day of the tour and saw several birds ‘rolling’ in display flight which is unusual as late as June. Clearly the nest box scheme has proved to be a phenomenal success.

[Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* – leader only]

David saw one whizzing through the clearing at Lakitelek whilst we were searching for Collared Flycatcher on 10 June. Surprisingly absent from the lodge garden this year.



European Bee-eater © Jeremy Aldred

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

We recorded this species every day. Notable highlights included wonderfully close views of birds adjacent to their nests along the track on the Kunpuszta and at the 'wall' near Bugyi. Over 50 individuals were counted at both of these sites.

Eurasian Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One was coaxed in at Lakitelek on 10 June, but it was far from co-operative and only glimpsed in flight.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocoptes medius*

We found four in the Töserdő forest on 10 June, but this year the birds were skittish; some of us managed good views, others were less fortunate.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dryobates minor*

In contrast to our experiences with the rarer woodpeckers, we did very well for 'LSW' during the week. Birds were heard calling regularly in and around the lodge grounds, and one was seen at the ponds on our first afternoon. Two were watched at the Kigyos channel on 9 June and the following day one sat out at point blank range in the churchyard at Tiszaalpár, much to the delight of the photographers!

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*

One called at Tiszaalpár on 10 June just as we were leaving, but it chose to fly strongly away which was extremely frustrating. Another was even more uncooperative in the copse near Kunadacs the following day.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Noted on five dates and more often seen than heard.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius* [H]

One was heard drumming and calling in the Töserdő forest on 10 June, but it proved unresponsive, with David the only person to glimpse it in flight.

European Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

We heard three individuals at different sites early in the tour then finally saw one, a juvenile, at Lakitelek on 10 June.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Noted on all but one day with a maximum of ten in and around the Kondor and Kunpuszta areas on 7 June.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

We had superb views of males and females at their colony in a copse near Böddi-szék on 9 June, perched and in flight. At Soltzentimre Puszta (12 June) the birds were more distant, but we enjoyed watching at least ten as they hunted over the grasslands.



Red-footed Falcon © Jeremy Aldred

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

One was seen high in the sky at Lake Kolon on 12 June.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

We found a family group of four close to their nest box on a distant pylon and saw a fifth individual in flight (8 June).

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Seen in small numbers on six dates. We had some excellent views of both males and females.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

This is yet another of the high-quality specialities present in the Kiskunság and we had exceptional views of birds near the Kunpuszta church on 7 June and in the small copse close to our lodge on 13 June, seeing them sitting, calling and flycatching. We noted others at Kondor-tó, at the Hosszúhát 'hill', near Bugyi and at Apaj.

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

We enjoyed hearing orioles singing and cat-calling throughout the tour, most often in the lodge grounds but also at a number of other sites. Six gave great views in flight as they left a copse near the Kunpuszta church on our first morning, and we had a number of other views of flying birds during the week. Seeing one perched proved very tricky; some got lucky from the watchpoint at Tiszaalpár, others from the bus as we drove to the airport.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

We saw three singles, all in flight, during the week.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*

Seen most days in small numbers.

Western Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

We saw two near Szabadszállás on 8 June and many more at Böddi-szék the following day.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Seen on four dates, often in large flocks. This species is important in the Kiskunság because the Red-footed Falcons make use of the Rookeries once the host species has finished, but only if they do so early enough.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Common and widespread.

Northern Raven *Corvus corax*

I was surprised to hear and see a Raven near the lodge on the first morning not having noted it on my previous five visits, but a family group was clearly in residence nearby this year. Birds were heard most days and up to three were seen flying over.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

Singles in and around the lodge garden on three dates.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Noted on five dates. Most sightings were in and around the lodge garden. We also watched a pair using a nest box at the Lake Kolon ringing centre on 12 June.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Seen every day in small numbers.

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

Two were seen along the Kigyós channel on 9 June, with some of the group managing good views. The following day, we watched one visiting its amazing nest at the start of the track out into the Tiszaalpár wetlands.

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*

Two were seen from the Apaj fishponds tower hide on 8 June.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea* [H]

One heard singing on the first morning across the road from our lodge.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Noted most days, with a number of birds in song.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

We had excellent views on both visits to the Kunpuszta and in addition noted odd ones from the bus during the week.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

We found 20 at a roadside stop en route to Bugyi on 8 June.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common and widespread throughout the week.

Common House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Seen in a variety of locations on the first five days but not thereafter, perhaps because the weather cleared.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

1-5 noted at three sites during the tour.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix* [H]

One was found singing along the forest track close to our lodge early on 10 June but was very distant.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

Noted daily although more often heard than seen, but we had good views in the lodge garden.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Recorded on four dates with a maximum of ten at Apaj fishponds on 8 June. We had respectable scope views at the pond close to the Kigyos restaurant on 9 June. On our last afternoon along the channel at Soltzentimre, we were privileged to watch one singing at close range for ages; perhaps because of the wind it was low to the ground. *Bird of the Trip* for some!

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

We tallied 10+ around the Apaj fishponds on 8 June. We watched birds song fighting whilst waiting for the Bluethroats to appear. Three singles were noted elsewhere.

Common Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Seen and heard in small numbers at the expected sites. Our best views were on the last afternoon along the Soltzentimre channel.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* [H]

One was found singing deep in the bushes along the bank crossing the former Lake Kondor on 7 June and we enjoyed listening to its mimicry despite it remaining out of view. David had another singing by the restaurant at Kigyos on 9 June, whilst most of the group were enjoying their very upmarket ice creams!

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One sang for ages near the Bee-eater wall south of Bugyi on 8 June but most of our views were in flight. Another was heard by the leaders at the Kigyos channel the following day.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* [H]

Heard singing on four dates, but none of us got even a glimpse.

Eurasian Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Noted daily, with occasional sightings in the lodge garden.

Barred Warbler *Curruca nisoria*

A distant songster at the far end of the Peszéradacs trail on 11 June, initially thought to be a Garden Warbler, was then seen song flighting and proved to be this species, but it soon went silent and our only follow up views were in flight.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca* [H]

Two were heard singing on 8 June, first close to one of the 'Great Bustard towers' south of Bugyi and then at our Saker Falcon stakeout.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Just one, seen and heard whilst we were watching our first Great Bustards south of Bugyi on 8 June.

Eurasian Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Two were heard singing in the Töserdő woods on 10 June.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Seen every day and a conspicuous presence in the lodge garden.

Short-toed Treecreeper *Certhia brachydactyla*

Noted on four dates. Regularly heard, but rarely seen, close to the lodge. Our best views were at the Red-footed Falcon colony near Böddi-szék on 9 June and whilst waiting for the Collared Flycatcher to appear at Lakitelek the following day.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Seen daily. We counted several hundred on the Kunpuszta on 7 June.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Noted on five dates. More often heard than seen.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

One or two were noted in and around the lodge garden on three dates.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Noted daily.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Seen on four dates, with regular sightings in and around the lodge garden. Others were noted at Tiszaalpár on 10 June and along the Peszéradacs trail the following day.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Robin is very much a woodland species in Hungary and we found it in just three locations including the lodge garden.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

We found three singing males at the far side of Apaj fishponds on 8 June, one of which sat out on a post close to us, with the others much more distant. On 12 June, we located three more, again singing males, from a tower near Lake Kolon. One was scoped allowing everyone, finally, to see the white spot! Having been noted two tours in a row this species will no longer be classed as a write-in!

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Noted on five dates. A number of birds were still in song which was wonderful, but the vast majority remained hidden.

[Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis* – leader only]

Gábor took us to a clearing near a lake at Lakitelek on 10 June and was very confident we would all see this species, but despite our best efforts, it was only noted by David.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Seen and heard daily, most often in the lodge garden where adults and young were present.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Three singing males at the Hosszúhát 'hill' on 8 June were distant. Another along the fence line beyond the Peszéradacs trail three days later showed splendidly.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

First seen on the Kunpuszta (7 June) and noted on four subsequent dates.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

One in its traditional spot on the Kunpuszta was remarkably uncooperative on our second visit there (11 June). Another, along the road west of the lodge later the same day, was equally so.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Seen in good numbers every day. We had great views at the Red-footed Falcon colony near Böddi-szék on 9 June.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Noted daily but scarcer than Tree Sparrow.

Western Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Only noted from the bus! A male was seen singing from a bush in the northern Kiskunság on 8 June. We had excellent views of a pair on the road at Soltzentimre on 13 June. The birds were of the nominate race *flava*, Blue-headed Wagtail.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Seen in small numbers on five dates.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*

We had excellent views of this species on both visits to the Kunpuszta, with two on 7 June and one on 11 June. Our best sightings were of a bird perched on a hay bale.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

One was heard singing near the lodge early on 10 June. Another visited the garden pond on 13 June.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Up to ten were noted most days although more often heard than seen.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

The stunningly close views of males and females from the lodge hides were undoubtedly one of the week's highlights.

European Greenfinch *Chloris chloris*

Up to ten seen daily at the ponds in the lodge grounds, with two others noted at Tiszaalpár (10 June).

Common Linnet *Linaria cannabina*

A flock of ten at Kunpuszta 7 June.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Seen most days, generally in small numbers.

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

First seen at Kunpuszta on 7 June. We noted this species in suitable habitat on three dates, with a number of males in song.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citronella* [H]

A male was heard singing on our early morning walk from the lodge into the woods on 10 June.

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Two Apaj fishponds on 8 June with two more Lake Kolon on 12 June.

BUTTERFLIES

(32 species seen by the group)

Common Swallowtail *Papilio machaon*
Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Small White *Pieris rapae*
Green-veined White *Pieris napi*
Eastern Bath White *Pontia edusa*
Pale Clouded Yellow *Colias hyale*
Clouded Yellow *Colias crocea*
Common Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Short-tailed Blue *Cupido argiades*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus*
Common Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*
[Adonis Blue *Polyommatus bellargus* – leader only]
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Nettle-tree Butterfly *Libythea celtis*
Lesser Purple Emperor *Apatura ilia*
Northern Comma *Nymphalis c-album*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*
Map *Araschnia levana*
Cardinal *Argynnis pandora*
Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia*
Knapweed Fritillary *Melitaea phoebe*
Lesser Spotted Fritillary *Melitaea trivia*
Common Marbled White *Melanargia galathea*
Common Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Chestnut Heath *Coenonympha glycerion*
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*
Tufted Marbled Skipper *Carcharodus flocciferus*
Essex Skipper *Thymelicus lineola*
Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*
Large Skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus*

DRAGONFLIES

(17 species seen by the group)

Common Emerald Damselfly (Common Spreadwing) *Lestes sponsa*
Southern Emerald Damselfly (Migrant Spreadwing) *Lestes barbarus*
Blue-tailed Damselfly (Common Bluetail) *Ischnura elegans*
Variable Damselfly (Variable Bluet) *Coenagrion pulchellum*
Azure Damselfly (Azure Bluet) *Coenagrion puella*
[Dainty Damselfly (Dainty Bluet) *Coenagrion scitulum* – leader only]
White-legged Damselfly (Blue Featherleg) *Platycnemis pennipes*
Norfolk Hawker (Green-eyed Hawker) *Aeshna isoceles*

Emperor Dragonfly (Blue Emperor) *Anax imperator*
Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*
Downy Emerald *Cordulia aenea*
Yellow-spotted Emerald *Somatochlora flavomaculata*
Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*
Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*
Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*
Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*
Southern Darter *Sympetrum meridionale*
Scarlet Darter (Broad Scarlet) *Crocothemis erythraea*

MAMMALS

European Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*
European Sousek *Spermophilus citellus*
European Hare (Brown Hare) *Lepus europaeus*
European Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*
Fallow Deer *Dama dama*

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Edible Frog *Pelophylax esculentus*
European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis*
Eastern Green Lizard *Lacerta viridis*
Smooth Snake (Copper Snake) *Coronella austriaca*
Eastern Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

MOTHS (in order of appearance)

Cream-spot Tiger *Arctia villica*
Marbled Clover *Heliothis virescens*
Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
Nine-spotted *Amata phegea*



A wildflower field dominated by Yellow Rattle © David Walsh