

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO HUNGARY
Natural History Tour
10 – 17 JULY 2015



Leaders: Gabor Orban & David Walsh

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO HUNGARY

Natural History Tour
10 – 17 JULY 2015

A Personal Diary

Our tour to the understated Kiskunsag National Park surpassed all expectations, and showed that virtually all the special birds can still be seen in July if you know where to look! Great Bustard, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Saker Falcon, Syrian Woodpecker, Pygmy Cormorant and Moustached Warbler topped the bill, but it was the frequency and quality of the views of European Bee-eater, European Roller, Red-footed Falcon and Lesser Grey Shrike which will live longest in the memory. Without compromising the birding, we targeted butterflies and dragonflies too, with 40+ and 20+ species respectively; Lesser Purple Emperor, Nettle-tree Butterfly and Cardinal, Yellow-spotted Emerald, Southern Migrant Hawker and White-tailed Skimmer were among numerous highlights.

Kondor Eco-Lodge was a superb base from which to explore. Eurasian Golden Orioles serenaded us every morning, and we enjoyed using the moth trap on our last evening. We loved the traditional Hungarian dishes and were made to feel like members of the family by Gabor and Andrea. Gabor was a superb guide; he knew all the best sites, and equally important was able to answer our questions on Hungarian culture, history and politics! All in all, this was one of the best general natural history tours I've had the privilege to lead, and I can't wait to go back next summer.

Friday 10th July

Our British Airways flight from Heathrow to Budapest took just two hours! We were soon greeting Gabor and Andrea in arrivals and, having duly confirmed that the exchange rate was better in British banks than at the airport, we set off at 7pm. En route we stopped for dinner in the historic town of Ocsa, a splendid variety of dishes on offer in the buffet. We paused briefly at the ancient church and traditional houses before wending our way through forest and grasslands, spotting Roe Deer, Brown Hare and what I subsequently discovered has been split as 'Northern White-breasted' Hedgehog! At 9pm we arrived at Kondor Tanya, our base for the whole week, and were soon settling in to our homely rooms.

Saturday 11th July

It's always exciting to potter in a new location on the first morning having arrived in the dark and today was no exception. The birds actually took a while to get going but we enjoyed a Common Cuckoo flypast and both Black and Common Redstarts. We sat down to breakfast at the leisurely hour of 8am! The well-stocked table included muesli, a variety of cold meats and cheeses and plenty of fruit; sensibly we were left to create our own lunch picnics to suit our individual needs.

We had planned to set off at 9am, but in fact spent the first half an hour near the garden pond, studying what turned out to be a male Dainty Damselfly and looking at the familiar Wall Brown and the unfamiliar Cardinal, a large fritillary. Our first European Rollers were seen within a minute of leaving! They would become a very common sight. We disembarked just up the road in an area of grassland with numerous European Susliks amongst the horses; the Great Egret looked a little out of place! An odd insect with dragonfly wings and 'horns' was, perhaps, some sort of antlion. Butterflies occupied us for a while, perseverance paying off with good looks at the plentiful Eastern Pale Clouded Yellows and Eastern Bath Whites; a single *helice* Clouded Yellow also excited Gabor! Stopping by a church in a small copse, we strolled through the fields, seeing our first Crested Lark and a number of impressive hornets. Soon we were in the vicinity of a European Bee-eater breeding colony and, from an appropriate distance, we spent a magical hour watching their comings and goings. The local dragonfly population was clearly taking a real hammering!

Gabor retrieved the bus allowing us to picnic in the shade, after which we tootled on a dirt track, stopping next at a wet patch being exploited by butterflies in search of nutrients. Most were Silver-studded Blues, but we also noted Brown Argus and Dingy Skipper. A Tawny Pipit showed splendidly as we headed towards a pit stop, recharging on ice creams and cold drinks and photographing the White Stork nest. It wasn't too hot, but it was still good to get out of the sun and into shade as we walked along a woodland nature trail. Southern and

Small Emerald Damselflies posed for comparison and we admired Wood Whites and a fine male Southern Migrant Hawker. A female Lesser Fiery Copper and a couple of Whinchats entertained us before we declared. Gabor explained the significance of the typical 'Transylvania Gate' to a house, then we made our last stop, by a roadside channel. A Grass Snake swam, our first Small Red-eyed Damselfly posed, a Savi's Warbler reeled out of sight and a Montagu's Harrier drifted past. Soon it was time to make the short journey back, returning at 5.45pm. There was time to download bee-eater photographs and enjoy a beer before we met at 7.30pm to do the list. Dinner set the standard for the week: cauliflower soup to start, then pork with mustard sauce and fruit slices to finish. The large glasses of red wine were also to our liking: Egri Bikaver (the Bull's blood of Eger). It had been a superbly varied day and we looked forward to more of the same tomorrow!

Sunday 12th July

Today we travelled to the north of the Kiskunsag National Park in search of some of its most special birds, and we weren't disappointed. A chance meeting with the author of *The Birds of Hungary* was unexpected as we arrived on site at a small hill overlooking an expanse of puszta. Three young male Great Bustards had obviously been waiting for us, flying into view before walking into the longer grass: what a start! Next we turned our attention to raptors: Common Buzzards resembling the race *vulpinus* were instructive but the stunning juvenile Eastern Imperial Eagle took centre stage, giving several views allowing us to see both upper and undersides through the scopes: incredible. There was something to see throughout the hour we scanned, any lull in the birds filled with small butterflies, the pick of which was Idas Blue.

Hungary is famous for its vast areas of fishponds and we spent the middle part of the day exploring ones near Apaj. A walk was something of a slog but we were rewarded with two juvenile Eurasian Penduline Tits, coaxed into a dead tree, as well as a group of Black Terns and several croaking Great Reed Warblers. A group of cattle delayed our entrance into a tower hide but it was worth the wait. Ferruginous Duck and Red-crested Pochard were rather distant, Bearded Reedlings and Western Marsh Harriers somewhat closer.

Gabor saved us the walk back by collecting the bus and, via our first Lesser Grey Shrike, we headed to the sanctuary of a copse for shade and tea/coffee. This was another real highlight, as the trees were home to a colony of Red-footed Falcons and we had superb views of both males and females, perched and in flight. A fine Syrian Woodpecker was a real bonus too.

We returned via a channel where a brief stop produced Lesser Emperor and White-legged Damselfly, but today the birds had taken centre stage. Once again we arrived back before 6pm to allow plenty of time to get sorted before dinner. News of a Black-browed Albatross at Minsmere came through as we tucked into the magnificent goulash soup; we had several helpings!

Monday 13th July

The beauty of this tour is the mix of local days and ones further afield. Ideally we would have alternated, but for the only time in the week the weather interfered with our plans today. The early rain was forecast to cease by mid-morning, so via a super pair of roosting Long-eared Owls in a town square, we stayed dry by driving for an hour or so to the east and an area of ancient forest. On cue, the rain stopped, and we strolled through the woods. It was pretty quiet at first, but perseverance once again paid off in the form of a fabulous Middle Spotted Woodpecker which gave repeated close views.

We reached another tower hide for lunch; this one overlooked a lake with lily pads surrounded by trees and bushes and the birds were close. Pygmy Cormorants sat up, showing off the subtleties of their plumage; an eclipse Garganey and several Squacco Herons were located on and around the water. A Barred Warbler tantalised but the Savi's was a little more obliging, singing below us and showing on and off. The star bird was a European Honey Buzzard which appeared at the back of the lake and headed right over our heads: magic. Behind us was an area of grassland in front of a much larger wetland. Something had obviously spooked the birds, which included a group of Black Storks and Eurasian Spoonbills, the former landing in the field.

It was sunny for our walk back. Common Glider and Willow Emerald Damselfly were welcome additions to the lists. We were on alert for Black Woodpecker, and one flew through the trees, though you had to be sharp to catch more than a glimpse. A Eurasian Hobby heralded our arrival back at the bus before we set off to a village giving a panoramic view over a vast wetland. Gabor gave another fascinating history lesson, and an Osprey rewarded those scanning, before we went closer to the water. A Little Bittern obligingly perched up,

European Pond Terrapins basked, Common Kingfishers whizzed, and we marvelled at the 100+ counts of Black-crowned Night Heron and Pgymy Cormorant. Two adult White-tailed Eagles and a Black Kite were splendid in the scopes despite being distant.

A guided tour of the city of Kecskemet preceded our return journey; one building was particularly impressive. Thousands of European Starlings and a group of White Storks were taking advantage of the recently mown hay close to our lodge. We had certainly made the most of our day and had much to discuss over our onion soup and pork with carrot sauce. Gabor and Andrea were again impressed with our appetites!

Tuesday 14th July

A Black Woodpecker called near our lodge before breakfast, but typically remained unseen. It was dry and warm but with a welcome breeze as we made a short journey to the south-west, via a staked-out Little Owl, soon reaching an area of alkaline lakes, another special habitat of this area. At our first stop Gabor commented on how much the water levels had dropped in recent days, but there was still enough for a couple of Black-necked Grebes to swim and over a hundred Whiskered Terns to feed. The nearby stand of trees played host to another Red-foot colony and we had the privilege of seeing a youngster in its nest hole.

Down the road a Great Bittern was 'leader-only' but it was clear that wader passage was in full swing, with good numbers of Ruff, Spotted Redshank and Wood Sandpiper accompanying the breeding Black-winged Stilts. We drove down a road which Gabor told us euphemistically had lots of history and headed to, inevitably, another tower hide! A Common Shelduck was located as planned, apparently a local rarity; Pied Avocets and Whimbrels were also easy for us to identify. We chilled for a while here, some taking advantage of a photographic hide to get up close and personal with more Red-footed Falcons, others chasing the pair of Lesser Grey Shrikes, the rest simply enjoying the vista. We made the most of the picnic tables and exchanged notes before it was time for a change.

An oxbow fishing lake didn't appear exciting on first inspection but was splendidly productive. A male Eurasian Golden Oriole flew across the lake before we concentrated on the dragonflies which included Norfolk Hawker and multiple Southern Darters which perhaps we had previously overlooked. A family group of Long-tailed Tits had pale heads hinting at a different race, whilst the nest of the Eurasian Penduline Tit was every bit as interesting as the masked male which we watched close by.

A different area of lakes just to the south is one of the most well-known areas in the whole park so we felt duty bound to pay a brief visit. The Red-eyed Damselfly we found was incidental really as we wondered what we might have seen with more time. Sensibly, however, we stuck to our plan and returned to base for an early dinner. Pasta soup and a tasty ham casserole with rice were followed by pastries of cottage cheese and both apple and sour cherry strudels. We enjoyed our liquid refreshment as always but were sufficiently alert to enjoy the excellent show of the European Nightjars up the lane. I was surprised that the churring started well before the Song Thrushes had finished singing, something which I'm not used to at home.

Wednesday 15th July

We met for a 'formal' pre-breakfast walk at 7.30am. It was high time we got a proper look at one of the Eurasian Golden Orioles which had teased us all week and, at the eleventh hour, we succeeded, with an obliging male perhaps taking pity on us and sitting out in the top of a bare tree: result!

We headed north-west today: any thoughts I might have had before the tour that there wouldn't be enough to occupy us for a full week in Kiskunsag had proved unfounded. Saker Falcon was a gap in our list; at the first place we tried the birds weren't playing ball but a fine Long-legged Buzzard was a splendid substitute. It was great to simply stand back and enjoy the mosaic of sunflowers, corn and hay bales.

Returning to a channel we'd already visited was worthwhile as we witnessed an Emperor devouring a Black-tailed Skimmer and watched a Lesser Grey Shrike hovering in Pied Kingfisher fashion! Taking advantage of a road to the Danube which had previously led to a ferry but was now empty, we turned our attention to special butterflies. Freyer's Purple Emperor was probably between first and second broods, but we were very content with a stonking Lesser Purple Emperor which we did our best to attract down from the treetops: what an awesome creature!

We picnicked in the shade then found our intended trail was overgrown. Having exchanged pleasantries with some dodgy looking but thoroughly polite locals, we tried again for Saker, and were in luck. One sat on a pylon, as expected, and we were able to compare it with the miniscule Common Kestrel. Another soared in the distance. It was important to remember how sought-after this species is, and Gabor's local knowledge was invaluable as always. The birds were clearly happy to be right by route 51!

As things really hotted up for the first time on the tour we had a longish clockwise drive across the north of the park, pausing only to photograph the Water Buffalo and Grey Hungarian Cattle. Eventually we reached the forest near Ocsa which we had driven through on the journey from the airport to the lodge. After a welcome drink we purposefully walked through the cool woods towards the aptly named 'silky meadow'. Duke of Burgundy Fritillary and Map Butterfly were much enjoyed! I was totally confident that both species of treecreeper were present and, eventually, Gabor was persuaded! Short-toed and Eurasian both called and responded nicely. I'd never seen the two together before so was well chuffed. Spotted Flycatcher and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker were further rewards for us, whilst two Black Storks lurking overhead hinted at the marshy nature of this fine forest.

We'd really made the most of the late afternoon light today and were happy to return to base a little later than usual. Egg soup, Green salad in vinegar, and a spicy sausage dish were on tonight's menu, whilst a refined Tokaj wine accompanied our dessert.

Thursday 16th July

We had breakfast earlier than usual to allow us an 8.15am departure for the drive to the Kolon reserve, in the south-west part of the Kiskunsag. We timed our arrival to coincide with the 9am net round and were in luck. We saw two Moustached Warblers in the hand as well as Common Chiffchaffs and European Reed Warblers. It was fascinating to watch the demonstration at an internationally important site where hundreds of birds are ringed daily, and it was particularly good to see a young Hungarian birder being part of the team. Red Squirrels in the pines were a welcome bonus.

Next we spent a super hour touring the lake in a small boat. Perched Pygmy Cormorants and Squacco Herons allowed close approach; Penduline Tits were equally obliging. The open water at Lake Kolon has been recreated in recent years and is a haven for dragonflies in particular. The Large White-faced Darters had, unfortunately, come to the end of their season, but we saw lots of other species in large numbers and saved the best until returning to dry land, Yellow-spotted Emeralds found patrolling the reed edges. We boosted our butterfly list too, with Scarce Swallowtail, Chestnut Heath, Short-tailed Blue and Nettle-tree Butterfly located in the same area.

It was hotting up again so we took advantage of the shade at the reserve centre for our picnic. We had done so well for birds and dragonflies that it was logical to concentrate on trying to find more butterflies. A meadow near Izsak had been cut, but we still managed to find Mallow Skipper. It was hard going in the heat but, typically, we persevered and tried our luck near a channel west of Soltszentimre. There was lots to see in the strips of flowers between the fields and Knapweed Fritillary and Grizzled Skipper were our reward.

We returned to base at 4.45pm and relaxed for a while before meeting up again 45 minutes later for a walk along the lane into the woods. A Tree Pipit near the pond was surprising, whilst an unexpected Dryad was yet another new butterfly, posing nicely for a photograph. There was plenty of time to get sorted before meeting up for a beer and the bird list at 7.30pm as usual. We were delighted that Gabor and Andrea were able to join us for our final dinner, another Hungarian feast! A tasty soup with rice and vegetables was followed by chicken fillet coated with paprika and we reflected on a splendid day on a fine reserve and, more generally, on a wonderfully varied week.

Friday 17th July

After our final breakfast we spent a couple of hours exploring close to the lodge, enjoying the special birds of the area for the last time, with Rollers and both Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes topping the bill. The local Eurasian Scops Owls had clearly fledged so we didn't find them, but we added Northern Wheatear to our trip list and revised the butterflies seen on the first day. It was hot, but early enough in the day for us to walk in the area which was formerly Lake Kondor but now open fields with some remnant reeds. An area of trees and

flowers was productive, with Lesser Spotted Fritillary particularly numerous. Distant raptors included Short-toed Eagle and a group of three European Honey Buzzards.

We returned to our base at 11am and spent the rest of the morning scrutinising hundreds of moths attracted to our trap overnight. With relatively little effort we identified 22 species, including several hawkmoths and the accurately named Nine-spotted; the sheer quantity of moths was incredible, and Gabor vowed to try again later in the month.

We relaxed over our picnic in the garden before departing at 3pm. There was time to stop at a Bee-eater 'wall' and marvel once more at the sight and sound of this wonderful bird. The journey to the airport went smoothly and, before checking in for our flight to London, we said a fond goodbye to Gabor and Andrea who had both made the week so special for us all.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all of you for the enthusiastic way in which you looked at everything during the week, and for your desire to find out so much about Hungarian history and culture in addition to enjoying the wildlife. Special thanks to Bill Cheney for allowing us to use your photographs in this report, to Richard Attenborough for sending me a list of the moths we identified and to Jean Attenborough for keeping a detailed record of what we ate for dinner! 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 a special tour.

David Walsh
Ornitholidays
29 Straight Mile
Romsey
Hants
SO51 9BB
Tel: 01794 519445
Email: info@ornitholidays.co.uk

August 2015



Itinerary and Weather

Friday 10 th July	Flight from Heathrow to Budapest, arriving early evening, then transfer to Kondor Lodge in the Kiskunsag National Park via dinner in Ocsa.
Saturday 11 th July	Kunpuszta (just north of the lodge) including Peszeradacs nature trail. Sunny, 15-28°C.
Sunday 12 th July	North Kiskunsag including Apajpuszta and Apaj fishponds. Sunny, 16-29°C.
Monday 13 th July	Kerekegyhaza town, then Toserdo (forest) and Tiszaalpar (wetlands). Return via Kecskemet. Rain early, then brightening up, sunny pm, 15-24°C.
Tuesday 14 th July	Boddi-szek alkaline lakes, oxbow lake and channel near Jarapuszta, Kelemen-szek. Post-dinner Nightjar walk at Kondor Lodge. Sunny spells, breezy, 18-26°C.
Wednesday 15 th July	Pre-breakfast walk near Kondor Lodge. Fields north of Szabadszallas, riverine forest along Danube, fields south of Domsod, then drive via north Kiskunsag to Ocsa woodland/meadows (Selyem-ret). Sunny, 17-29°C.
Thursday 16 th July	Ringling demonstration and boat trip at Lake Kolon. Butterfly meadows near Izsak and Soltszentimre. Sunny, 15-30°C.
Friday 17 th July	Kunpuszta (near the lodge). Afternoon transfer to Budapest via Szittyourbo (Bee-eaters). Evening flight to Heathrow. Sunny, clouding over, 19-33°C.



CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance Scale
	(max seen on one 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	4	2	<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>
Gadwall	1	1	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Garganey	2	1	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Common Pochard	1	2	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Red-crested Pochard	1	1	<i>Netta rufina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	2	1	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Common Pheasant	5	1	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Little Grebe	2	2	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	2	3	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Great Cormorant	2	3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	2	4	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
Little Bittern	2	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	4	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	2	1	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Little Egret	3	3	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret	6	3	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>
Grey Heron	5	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	5	3	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	7	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	3	3	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	2	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
White-tailed Eagle	2	1	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Osprey	1	1	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Short-toed Eagle	3	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Black Kite	2	1	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	7	2	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Montagu's Harrier	1	1	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	1	1	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Common Buzzard	7	3	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
European Honey Buzzard	2	1	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	3	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Common Kestrel	7	3	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Red-footed Falcon	5	3	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Eurasian Hobby	2	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Saker Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco cherrug</i>
Common Moorhen	1	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Eurasian Coot	3	4	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Great Bustard	1	1	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Pied Avocet	1	4	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	1	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Little Ringed Plover	- 1h	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Common Ringed Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Northern Lapwing	5	4	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Dunlin	1	1	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Common Sandpiper	2	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>

Wood Sandpiper	2	1h	3	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Green Sandpiper	1		1	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Spotted Redshank	1		3	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	3		1	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>
Eurasian Curlew	1		3	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Whimbrel	1		3	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Snipe	1		1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Ruff	1		4	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	4		4	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	4		4	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Common Tern	2		2	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Black Tern	1		3	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Whiskered Tern	3	1h	4	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>
Feral Pigeon	7		4	<i>Columba livia</i>
Common Wood Pigeon	7		3	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	7		3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
European Turtle Dove	4	1h	2	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Common Cuckoo	4		1	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Long-eared Owl	1		1	<i>Asio otus</i>
Little Owl	1		1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
European Nightjar	1		1	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Common Swift	4		1	<i>Apus apus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	3		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	1h	1	<i>Dryocopus martiusá</i>
European Green Woodpecker	2	4h	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	5		1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Syrian Woodpecker	1	1h	1	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	1		1	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	3		1	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Common Skylark	1		1	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Crested Lark	5		3	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Common Sand Martin	4		2	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Barn Swallow	7		4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common House Martin	7		3	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>
Tawny Pipit	4		1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Tree Pipit	1		1	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
White Wagtail	5		3	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Yellow Wagtail	5		1	<i>Motacilla flava</i>
European Robin	3	2h	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	-	2h	1	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Common Redstart	2		1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	7		2	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	1		1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whinchat	1		1	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>
Common Stonechat	6		2	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>
Song Thrush	2	1h	1	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Mistle Thrush	1		1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Common Blackbird	5		1	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Barred Warbler	1		1	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>
Blackcap	4	3h	2	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Savi's Warbler	1	2h	1	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
Sedge Warbler	2		1	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Moustached Warbler	1		1	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
European Reed Warbler	2	1h	2	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	1		2	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Common Chiffchaff	5	2h	2	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Winter Wren	-	2h	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	1		1	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>
Great Tit	5		1	<i>Parus major</i>
European Blue Tit	5	1h	1	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>

Long-tailed Tit	1		3	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Bearded Reedling	1	1h	3	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Eurasian Penduline Tit	3		3	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	3		2	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Eurasian Treecreeper	1		1	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	4		2	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	6		3	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Red-backed Shrike	7		3	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Common Magpie	8		2	<i>Pica pica</i>
Eurasian Jay	3		1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Hooded Crow	7		3	<i>Corvus cornix</i>
Common Starling	6		5	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Eurasian Golden Oriole	5	2h	3	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
House Sparrow	7		3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	6		3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Common Chaffinch	2	4h	1	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
European Goldfinch	6		3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
European Greenfinch	3	1h	1	<i>Chloris chloris</i>
European Serin	-	1h	1	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Common Reed Bunting	1		1	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>

BUTTERFLIES

Swallowtail				<i>Papilio machaon</i>
Scarce Swallowtail				<i>Iphiclidides 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>
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>
Small Copper				<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>
Lesser Fiery Copper				<i>Lycaena thersamon</i>
Short-tailed Blue				<i>Everes argiades</i>
Holly Blue				<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>
Silver-studded Blue				<i>Plebejus argus</i>
Idas Blue				<i>Plebejus idas</i>
Brown Argus				<i>Aricia agestis</i>
Common Blue				<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>
Duke of Burgundy Fritillary				<i>Hamearis lucin</i>
Nettle-tree Butterfly				<i>Libythea celtis</i>
Lesser Purple Emperor				<i>Apatura ilia</i>
Common Glider				<i>Neptis sappho</i>
Red Admiral				<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>
Comma Butterfly				<i>Polygonum 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>
Dryad				<i>Minois dryad</i>
Meadow Brown				<i>Maniola jurtina</i>
Ringlet				<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>
Small Heath				<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>
Chestnut Heath				<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>
Speckled Wood				<i>Pararge aegeria</i>
Wall Brown				<i>Lasionmata megera</i>
Grizzled Skipper				<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>
Mallow Skipper				<i>Carcharodus alceae</i>
Dingy Skipper				<i>Erynnis tages</i>
Large Skipper				<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>

DRAGONFLIES

Banded Demoiselle
 Southern Emerald Damselfly
 Small Emerald Damselfly
 Willow Emerald Damselfly
 Blue-tailed Damselfly
 Variable Damselfly
 Dainty Damselfly
 Red-eyed Damselfly
 Small Red-eyed Damselfly
 White-legged Damselfly
 Southern Migrant Hawker
 Norfolk Hawker
 Emperor
 Lesser Emperor
 Yellow-spotted Emerald
 Four-spotted Chaser
 Broad-bodied Chaser
 Black-tailed Skimmer
 White-tailed Skimmer
 Ruddy Darter
 Common Darter
 Southern Darter
 Scarlet Darter

Calopteryx splendens
Lestes barbarus
Lestes virens
Lestes viridis
Ischnura elegans
Coenagrion pulchellum
Coenagrion scitulum
Erythromma najas
Erythromma viridulum
Platycnemis pennipes
Aeshna affinis
Aeshna isoceles
Anax imperator
Anax parthenope
Somatochlora flavomaculata
Libellula quadrimaculata
Libellula depressa
Orthetrum cancellatum
Orthetrum albistylum
Sympetrum sanguineum
Sympetrum striolatum
Sympetrum meridionale
Crocothemis erythraea

MAMMALS

Northern White-breasted Hedgehog
 Brown Hare
 Red Squirrel
 European Suslik
 Roe Deer

Erinaceus roumanicus
Lepus europaeus
Sciurus vulgaris
Spermophilus citellus
Capreolus capreolus

REPTILES

European Pond Terrapin
 European Green Lizard
 Grass Snake

Emys orbicularis
Lacerta viridis
Natrix natrix

AMPHIBIANS

European Fire-bellied Toad
 Edible Frog

Bombina bombina
Pelophylax esculentus

MOTHS (those identified in the moth trap on 17th)

Reed Leopard
 Orange Underwing
 Clouded Border
 Peacock Wave
 Latticed Heath
 Peppered Moth
 Great Oak Beauty
 Light Emerald
 Privet Hawkmoth
 Lime Hawkmoth
 Spurge Hawkmoth
 Elephant Hawkmoth
 Small Elephant Hawkmoth
 Puss Moth
 Buff-tip
 Pale Tussock
 Nine-spotted
 White-point
 Miller

Phragmataecia castaneae
Archiearis parthenias
Lomaspilis marginata
Macaria notata
Chiasmia clathrata
Biston betularia
Hypomecis roboraria
Campaea margaritata
Sphinx ligustri
Mimas tiliae
Hyles euphorbiae
Deilephila elpenor
Deilephila porcellus
Cerura vinula
Phalera bucephala
Calliteara pudibunda
Amata phegea
Mythimna albipuncta
Acronicta leporina

Spotted Sulphur
Burnished Brass
Red Underwing

Emmelia trabealis
Diachrysia chrysitis
Catocala nupta

References

- <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/136344/0> (details of hedgehog taxonomy!)
- <http://www.guypadfield.com/> (invaluable source of info re butterflies)
- <http://www.eurobutterflies.com/index.php> (ditto)
- <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=21925> (data sheet on Kiskunsag lakes)
- <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=1394> (puszta)
- <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/sitefactsheet.php?id=1395> (Lake Kolon)

These lists represent those birds and other animals as seen by party members of the tour.

© Ornitholidays



Common Glider



Lesser Purple Emperor



Lesser Firey Copper



Queen of Spain Fritillary



Scarlet Darter



Dainty Damselfly



Red-footed Falcon



Pygmy Cormorants



Red-backed Shrike



European Bee-eater



Lesser Grey Shrike



White Storks



Middle Spotted Woodpecker



Whiskered Tern

Front cover: Red-footed Falcon

All photographs © W Cheney & D Walsh