

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO HUNGARY**  
*Crane Spectacular & Wild Goose Chase*

**31 October – 06 November 2009**



**Leaders: Mike Witherick and Gabor Simay**

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**A Personal Diary**

**Saturday, 31 October**

We left London on a damp early morning and arrived in Budapest two hours later where the skies were wonderfully clear but with a bit of a nip in the air. At the airport, we were met by Gabor and Zoltan, our guide and driver respectively for the next six days. Given the time of day, we decided to take the southern route that leads to Debrecen. Packed lunches were issued and consumed as we headed eastwards. There was much evidence of new road building and the volume of traffic was noticeably less than in the UK. We were all surprised that the deciduous trees still retained most of their leaves. The autumnal colours were splendid.

We did our best to do some birding from our mobile hide. The number of Common Buzzards was impressive. We made three stops on route. The first, a comfort stop, allowed us a chance to watch a pair of Eurasian Sparrowhawk. The second stop was occasioned by the sighting of a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese in a ploughed field. A short walk allowed us to get within reasonable distance of the flock. Checking through the flock with the scope produced a very pleasant surprise. There were some 10 Red-breasted Geese amongst the flock. Their colours showed up well in the late afternoon sunshine. The third stop was called when I saw what I have seen on previous tours to this part of Hungary – a sizeable raptor perched high in an electricity pylon. We quickly checked out the bird and it was confirmed as a juvenile Saker. With the light behind us, we were able to see well its distinctive plumage features. Other birds seen on route included Great Grey Shrike, Rook and Common Crane.

To be truthful, we made a fourth stop, but remained in the bus – it was to see a Little Owl sitting on a chimney-stack. From there, it was but a few minutes drive to our hotel. In no time at all we were settling in to our intriguingly configured rooms. We had plenty of time to sort ourselves out before meeting in the bar for a pre-dinner drink. After which we assembled in the baronial hall and sat around its huge table for a substantial and welcome meal. After a briefing about tomorrow's programme most hurried off their rooms to catch up on lost sleep.

**Sunday, 1 November**

Most of the group turned out at 6.30am for a short spell of pre-breakfast morning. There was a crispness in the air and ice on the puddles was evidence of an overnight frost. The silence of the dawn was broken by the calls of Common Cranes as they left their overnight roosts, and locally-reared Common Pheasants. A lone Little Grebe was all that we could see on the pond. Around the pond, interest centred mainly on a flock of Tree Sparrows and a range of finches (Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Bullfinch and Brambling) and tits (Great, Blue and Long-tailed). After about half an hour or so, we were ready for our buffet breakfast.

Much of the morning we spent walking out on a section of the puszta in search of Dotterel which had been reported there the previous week. The walk was very much on the level, and the firm ground was punctuated by small rashes of puddles. We were out of luck with the Dotterel – no doubt the recent cold nights had persuaded them to seek a warmer location. However, we did spot two Snow Buntings (the first of the winter) feeding on some mud along with Water and Meadow Pipits. Male and ring-tailed Hen Harriers were seen on a number of occasions. Other notable sightings were of a Jack Snipe and a Great Grey Shrike. A mixed flock of Tree and House Sparrows presented a useful opportunity to compare the two species.

We then drove to our lunch stop on the banks of the River Tisza. On the way, a Little Owl showed well in a small tree. We had our own private room for lunch. Perhaps as a result of comments made the previous

evening, most opted for goulash rather than the locally famous fish soup. The deep-fried pancakes filled with cottage cheese and set in a pool of custard was a dessert that received universal approval.

Having admired the technology of the river ferry, we boarded the bus and headed to the village of Balmazujvaros where, in lovely sunlight, we watched admiringly at nearly 100 roosting Long-eared Owls. In one run of five small trees no more than two metres apart, we counted over 30 owls looking like great, cryptically marked fruits dangling between the branches. They seemed unconcerned by our presence and by the rapid shutter fire of the photographers amongst us, especially Peter, but their highly erect ears suggested that they were taking no chances with us.

The remainder of the daylight hours were spent watching tens of thousands of Cranes and geese (mainly Greater White-fronted) flying to their different roosting areas against the backcloth of a magnificent sunset and a rising full moon. The sight and sounds of these birds combined to make it a truly memorable experience – hopefully to be long remembered. Also seen during our vigil were an immature White-tailed Eagle and several Hen Harriers. On our way back to the hotel, we had headlight sightings of two Barn Owls.

Having assembled in the bar, we moved into a nearby room for a two-day log call. Everyone was agreed that we had been privileged to watch some very special avian spectacles under perfect weather conditions.

### **Monday, 2 November**

A number of us turned out for a 30-minute spell of birding in the hotel grounds before breakfast. Mistle Thrush was new for the trip, but the best sighting was of the wet tracks of an Otter across the drive – well spotted Shirley. We were left wondering how recently the crossing had been made – most likely a matter of minutes before the tracks were spotted.

After breakfast, we boarded the bus and made the hour-long crossing of the Hortobagy National Park to its western border near the village of Nagivan. Close to the village, we were lucky to see a pair of Saker on the ground and oh so close to the road! No sooner had we stopped than they soon took to flight and we were able to appreciate the size and powerfulness of this magnificent falcon.

Having collected Dr Kovacs from his house, we drove along a track and it was not long before a flock of Great Bustard had been spotted feeding in a field. From outside the bus, we watched the flock for some 30 minutes. In all we counted 19 – all female. Apparently, it is normal for the sexes to separate during the winter months. The beauty of this particular view was the good visibility and the fact that the flock was not in any way obscured by vegetation – they were literally out in the open.

Flushed with success, we then moved to a slightly different location and decided to walk out to a slightly raised bridge from which we thought we would gain good views of geese. We begun the walk and the skies cleared and there then followed a real purple patch for raptors. We started with Western Marsh and Hen Harriers. Then three Eastern Imperial Eagles came into view. Our sightings of White-tailed Eagle numbered no less than nine individuals. A female Peregrine gave excellent views – first when it was perched on the arm of a well and then on the ground. We were in raptures! But our joy did not end there. A male Bearded Reedling gave superb scope views as it feed hungrily on a reed head – Tom and Jennifer seemed particularly pleased. A Black Redstart also gave good views. Also seen were Crested Lark and Skylark, as well as Reed Bunting. As we stood on the bridge, huge skeins of geese flew and called overhead flying in their fluid arrow-head formations. The flocks were almost exclusively made up of Greater White-fronted, but in amongst them we spotted both Red-breasted and Greylag Geese.

What a morning's birding! Soon it was time to return to the village of Hortobagy for another most welcome lunch. Earlier when we had driven through the village, Chris and Terry saw in flight what they later concluded had been a Black Woodpecker. Our lunch today comprised goulash – less salt but hotter than yesterday's - followed by two pancakes filled with crushed poppy seeds and sour cherries – I thought they were delicious!

The intention was to spend the afternoon at the Hortobagy-Halasto fishponds. Before we reached there, we spotted a flock of geese quite close to the road. We quietly exited the bus and set up our scopes. Although essentially a flock of Greater White-fronts, there were conspicuous numbers of Red-breasted Geese (over 60

were subsequently counted). But sharp-eyed Gabor soon spotted at least one Lesser White-front. The birds proved slightly frustrating as they kept disappearing into 'dead ground' and only occasionally put up their distinctive heads. However, with patience and good directions of Gabor, everyone was able to say that they had seen at least one of the three Lesser Whitefronts. Truly we were being very lucky with our sightings of geese – close and in good light – no need for a wild goose chase this tour!

We spent the remainder of birdwatching light at the nearest of the huge fishponds. Here we found an abundance of birdlife. Very conspicuous were the 200 or so Great Egrets (meticulously counted by Tony) and perhaps less obvious an equal number of Grey Herons. There were good numbers of duck - Mallard, Teal, Wigeon, Gadwall and Pintail. Gabor explained to us the distinguishing features of Caspian Gull. Common and Black-headed Gulls were also seen, but the highlight was a Whiskered Tern spotted by Chris. This was a remarkably 'late' bird for these parts. Common Kingfisher was heard. Slightly disconcerting was the huge amount of splashing caused by huge fish leaping out of the water.

We returned to the hotel around 5.30 pm and later met in the bar before doing the day's checklist. The meal that followed was a good one. The pace of service and consumption seemed rather more relaxed. Indeed some of us were still talking at the table at 9pm!

### **Tuesday, 3 November**

Before breakfast, we spent a little time exploring the other side of the pond. A mixed feeding party contained a few Coal Tits which were new for the tour. Terry saw a White Stork flying in a skein of Common Cranes, a sighting later confirmed by Gail and Tom. Apparently, in most winters one or two White Storks linger on in the Hortobagy, and if they do they usually consort and roost with Common Cranes.

Our first stop after breakfast was at a large pond associated with a now defunct sugar beet factory. There were large numbers of duck present, predominantly Mallard and Pochard, but amongst them we spotted two Ferruginous Ducks and some female Tufted Ducks. Perhaps the highlight for most at this location was the splendid Eurasian Penduline Tit that posed for a while on the top of some reeds. A Siskin was seen by some in flight. Before returning to the main road, we disembarked to scrutinise a mixed finch party that kept flitting between an ash tree and the ploughed field beneath it. Two splendid Hawfinches were spotted, along with some brightly plumaged Brambling. Goldfinches, Chaffinches and Greenfinches were also present in the mixed feeding flock.

We then drove on to Debrecen, Hungary's second largest city. During our transect of the city, there was a request for a comfort stop. Unfortunately, the filling station we chose had only one loo for the use of both genders. We possibly set a record for the length of time it takes for 15 people to relieve themselves! Eventually we were heading north out of the city and into Debrecen Forest. Our 90-minute walk took the form of a loop during which we found four species of woodpecker – Great, Middle and Lesser Spotted as well as Green. It was the Lesser Spotted that stole the show – a male fed busily within easy viewing distance. Other sightings during the walk include Nuthatch, Short-toed Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, Marsh Tit and Siskin.

Having returned to the road, we found some picnic tables and then proceeded to consume an excellent picnic lunch – a sort of meat risotto, sweet corn salad and bread followed by cake squares covered in coconut and an apple – half baked as a result of it spending the morning near the buses heater! Towards the end of the meal Chris spotted a Black Woodpecker flying across the road. Some minutes later Gabor and I spotted another. Sadly, we could not lure the birds back into view.

We then re-boarded the bus and drove back through Debrecen and headed out south-westwards to the vicinity of Földes and a wetland nature reserve that was home to some very vocal Water Buffalo as well as large numbers of geese and duck. As we disembarked, some of us saw a Great Bittern in flight. We then climb to the top of a substantial wooden tower from which we could see the whole of the wetland. Raptors probably attracted the greatest interest – a perched Peregrine, a Goshawk seen both perched and in flight, a good number of Western Marsh Harriers and a lone male Hen Harrier. Common Snipe was new for the tour.

Our final stop of the day was but a short distance away to a field hosting a huge flock of Greater White-fronted Geese. In amongst them, Gabor drew our attention to three or four Tundra Bean Geese with their very dark heads and distinctive bills.

We arrived back at the hotel around 5pm feeling very much in need of some warmth. Although there had been some sunshine and some cloud had cut down on heat loss, today's cold seemed to be rather more penetrating. We reassembled in the bar for log call at 7pm, followed by another welcome three-course meal.

### **Wednesday, 4 November**

Pre-breakfast birding produced one new species for the tour – Goldcrest. There was much interest in a flock of Long-tailed Tits of the northern white-headed form. Again the wet tracks of an Otter were seen across the drive.

The target species this morning was Pygmy Cormorant and this we sought back at the Hortobagy-Halasto fishponds. In the event, most of us walked about 6km in search of the species from three different observation towers. In the event, three birds were seen, two at great distance and the near one by only four members of the party. However, there were plenty of compensations, such as the sunshine and the calm conditions. Star sighting for most was of an Otter sitting out on a wisp of an island and devouring a fish. We had good views of Penduline Tit; there were plenty of Bearded Reedlings 'pinging' in and above the reeds. New birds for the tour were Mute Swan and Water Rail which, by the standards of the species, showed quite well. From the furthest platform, we saw a small flock of Great Crested Grebe. Some five White-tailed Eagles were seen well, both on the ground and in the air. While we were away, Patricia and Ann spent some time watching huge fish being harvested in an arm of the great fish pond.

We were all feeling distinctly hungry as a result of our walk and so hastened back to the village of Hortobagy and to the csarda we patronised two days ago. Another excellent meal was set before us. After lunch there was a little time for some retail therapy – led by Joy and Walter. The main birding interest outside the csarda focused on a pair of Syrian Woodpeckers and three Long-eared Owls at roost. At first, there was some scepticism about the former – why were they not Great Spotted Woodpeckers? Eventually, we heard the distinctive call of the Syrian and saw that the black line did not completely separate the white on the cheek and neck.

Having re-boarded the bus, we headed westwards again out of Hortobagy, passing the fishponds and a little further on turning off the road. A short brisk walk brought us to another fishpond. However, on reaching a break in the reeds, we startled a huge number of birds of diverse species. These took to the air and included over 40 Pygmy Cormorants. Tom and Jennifer arrived just in time to see the last take flight. Well pleased that all of us had had good views of the species, we made all speed for the Common Crane roosting area that we had visited on Sunday. Sadly, weather conditions were rather cloudy and the cranes seemed to have been feeding today in different areas – very few flew directly over us. Nonetheless, there was no shortage of them – again it was estimated that we had seen around 10,000.

We arrived back at the hotel just before 5.30pm and the rest of the day followed its now established pattern.

### **Thursday, 5 November**

We awoke to the sound of rain on the roof and damp is the way the weather remained for the rest of the day. The pre-breakfast birdwatch was abandoned and the rest of the days programme was built around the wish to remain as dry as possible and yet complete a day's birdwatching. In the morning, we drove to Lake Tisza - a vast man-made lake. We made three stops at different points on the southern shore and in terms of new birds we saw Greater Scaup, Goldeneye, a fine Black-throated Diver and three Black-necked Grebes. On the outward journey, we had also seen our first Corn Buntings.

As fate would have it, today's lunch was a picnic one. Given the persistent drizzle, the challenge was not to find picnic tables, but rather somewhere dry. In the event, we decided to make for the Information Centre at Hortobagy-Halasto. Although the centre was closed, we took advantage of its covered veranda. During the lunch break, we were aware of Goldcrests moving through the willows. A Hawfinch posed well at the top of a nearby tree.

Afterwards, most of us walked briskly to the first fishpond, if only to fulfil Peter's wish to add a few more waders to the list. We were out of luck and then spent the remainder of the driving to various locations within the National Park where it was thought we would encounter Rough-legged Buzzards. We were out of luck and the will to continue the search waned as the light deteriorated earlier than usual.

We arrived back at the hotel just after 4.30pm and were alarmed to find the place in darkness, The staff were at the front door and informed us that someone had cut the cable serving the hotel with electricity. We were issued with candles and told that the supply should be restored within an hour – was it to be a 'Hungarian hour', we wondered? Meanwhile members of the party took advantage of the fact that the bar was open. Soon the supply was restored and all was light and warmth again.

After log call, the arrangements for tomorrow's return to the UK were outlined. Our last meal together was held in the restaurant rather than the baronial hall. It started with a tot of apricot brandy provided by the hotel. Perhaps taking the edge off what was otherwise a very convivial evening was the need to settle our bar bills!

### **Friday, 6 November**

Such was the organisation and punctuality of the group that we were able to leave the hotel a little ahead of our 7.30am deadline. The weather was much improved and we made good progress on our 250km drive to Ferihegy Airport on the outskirts of Budapest. Due to an accident and an ensuing road closure, we had to make a detour, but mercifully it was a short one. Attention throughout the drive was focused on roadside raptors. Could we find a Rough-legged Buzzard? Much to our disappointment, particularly Chris's, we failed and had to make do with a little less than 100 Common Buzzards.

At the airport, we said goodbye to Gabor and Zoltan and checked in for our flight. We arrived on time in London but it took a little time to get to the baggage reclaim area. However, on arrival there our luggage was awaiting collection. Farewells were said and the group dispersed to different corners of the UK.

### **Acknowledgements**

Our thanks to Gabor for being such a sharp-eyed and informative guide, and to Zoltan for his careful driving, patience and courtesy. I would also like to thank you all for coming on this tour, and for your company, good humour and punctuality throughout. I hope you have all returned home with your particular happy avian memories of the tour, be it tens of thousands of Common Cranes and geese coming to roost, Long-eared Owls trying to take a daytime nap or the pursuit of the one species that got away! Hopefully, we might meet up again on another tour. Many thanks are also due to Peter Munro for the photographs in this report.

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## **Itinerary and Weather**

Saturday, 31 October	London > Budapest > Nadudvar (via southern route) Rain in London. Fine and sunny in Budapest 10°C
Sunday, 1 November	am Walk on the Hortobagy Lunch – Tiszacsege pm Roost at Viragosvut Fine and sunny; light northerly breeze 8°C
Monday, 2 November	am Nagivan Lunch – Hortobagy pm Hortobagy-Halasto Fine and sunny; calm 10°C
Tuesday, 3 November	am Sugar factory nr Kaba, Debrecen Forest pm Wetland nr Földes Intermittent cloud; cold 6°C
Wednesday, 4 November	am Hortobagy-Halasto Lunch – Hortobagy pm Roost at Viragosvut Fine, sunny morning, becoming cloudy 11°C
Thursday, 5 November	am Lake Tisza-to Hortobagy-Halasto pm Various locations within the NP Light rain or drizzle for much of the day 9°C
Friday, 6 November	Nadudvar > Budapest > London Overcast in both locations 10°C

## CHECKLIST OF BIRDS SEEN DURING THE TOUR

No of days recorded	Abundance scale
1 2h means seen on 1 day and heard on 2 other days	(max for any one day) 1 = 1 - 4 2 = 5 - 9 3 = 10 - 99 4 = 100 - 999 5 = 1000+

SPECIES	No of days recorded	Abundance scale	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Black-throated Diver	1	1	<i>Gavia arctica</i>
Little Grebe	3	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great Crested Grebe	2	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	1	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Great Cormorant	4	3	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	1	3	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
Great Bittern	1	1	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Great Egret	5	4	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Grey Heron	5	4	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
White Stork	1	1	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Mute Swan	1	1	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Tundra Bean Goose	3	3	<i>Anser (fabalis) rossicus</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose	6	5	<i>Anser albifrons</i>
Lesser White-fronted Goose	1	1	<i>Anser erythropus</i>
Greylag Goose	6	4	<i>Anser anser</i>
Red-breasted Goose	2	3	<i>Branta ruficollis</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	4	3	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Gadwall	2	2	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Common Teal	4	4	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Mallard	4	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	3	2	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Northern Shoveler	5	3	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Common Pochard	1	4	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	1	1	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Greater Scaup	1	1	<i>Aythya marila</i>
Goldeneye	1	3	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>
Tufted Duck	2	2	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
White-tailed Eagle	4	2	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	3	2	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Hen Harrier	5	1	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Northern Goshawk	1	1	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	4	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Common Buzzard	6	3	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle	1	1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Common Kestrel	6	1	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Saker Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco eleonorae</i>
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Common Pheasant	6	3	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Water Rail	1	1	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>
Common Coot	2	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Crane	6	5	<i>Grus grus</i>
Great Bustard	1	3	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Northern Lapwing	3	3	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Common Snipe	2	1	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Jack Snipe	2	1	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>
Eurasian Curlew	1	1	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Spotted Redshank	1	3	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Black-headed Gull	4	4	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Common Gull	3	2	<i>Larus canus</i>



Caspian Gull	3	4	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Yellow-legged Gull	3	2	<i>Larus michahellis</i>
Whiskered Tern	2	1	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	6	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Stock Dove	1	3	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Common Wood-Pigeon	1	1	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared-Dove	6	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Barn Owl	1	1	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Little Owl	2	1h	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Long-eared Owl	2	3	<i>Asio otus</i>
Common Kingfisher	1	1h	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
European Green Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Black Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Syrian Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Crested Lark	2	2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Common Sky Lark	1	1	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Water Pipit	2	1	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>
Meadow Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>
Winter Wren	3	1h	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
European Robin	3	1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Black Redstart	1	1	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Common Blackbird	4	1h	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Mistle Thrush	2	1	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>
Fieldfare	5	4	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>
Goldcrest	2	1	<i>Regulus regulus</i>
Bearded Reedling	2	2	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Long-tailed Tit	4	2	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>
Marsh Tit	1	1	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
Coal Tit	2	1	<i>Periparus ater</i>
Blue Tit	5	1	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Great Tit	5	2	<i>Parus major</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	1	1	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	1	1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Eurasian Penduline-Tit	2	1	<i>Remix pendulinus</i>
Great Grey Shrike	6	1	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Eurasian Jay	1	1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Common Magpie	6	2	<i>Pica pica</i>
Western Jackdaw	4	2	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Rook	6	5	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Hooded Crow	6	3	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Starling	6	3	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
House Sparrow	5	3	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Tree Sparrow	5	3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Chaffinch	4	2	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
Brambling	2	2	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>
European Greenfinch	2	1	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Goldfinch	6	3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Siskin	1	1	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>
Eurasian Linnet	3	1h	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
Eurasian Bullfinch	3	1	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>
Hawfinch	2	1	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Snow Bunting	1	1	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>
Reed Bunting	3	2	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Corn Bunting	1	3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>

**MAMMALS**

European Otter  
Red Fox  
Roe Deer  
Brown Hare  
Rabbit  
Grey Cattle  
Racka Sheep  
Water Buffalo

**BUTTERFLIES**

Red Admiral

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.



**Sunset over the fishponds**



**Watching the Great Bustards**



**Looking for the elusive Dotterel**



**Little Owl**



**Marsh Harrier**



**White-tailed Eagle**

**Front Cover: Long-eared Owl**

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