

ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO HUNGARY
Spring Tour

01 – 08 May 2010



Leader: Gábor Simay

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A Personal Diary

Saturday, 1 May

It was sunny and pleasant in Budapest when I met the group at the airport. Our driver Zoltán was waiting for us and we set off at about 2 p.m. for a three hours' drive to the Zemplén hills. Along the motorway Common Buzzards and Common Kestrels were numerous. Our first stop was a parking place by the motorway where we had our packed lunch. It proved to be a good place to stop, as an adult Eastern Imperial Eagle circled a bit far away, but long enough for us to have nice views. This area held our first Crested Larks as well, which was a common species for the rest of the trip.

Our next stop was our first proper birding place, in the southern slopes of the Zemplén hills. We drove up a small tarmac road among vineyards and stopped our bus by a little grassland. The first bird was a Short-toed Eagle, which showed well for a few minutes and then disappeared somewhere among the forested valleys of the Zemplén. In the nearby vineyard some Woodlark showed very well and very close, while the grassland held the first interesting plant and butterfly species as well.

From here we drove towards our hotel stopping by the River Bodrog on the way. The extensive floodplains on the other side were still partly under water because the recent flooding of the river. Many Great Egrets, Greylag Geese, Great Cormorants and Mute Swans were feeding in the water, though most of them were miles away... Also we saw our first couple of Whiskered Terns above these waters. The nearby bushes held the first Corn Buntings and Red-backed Shrikes of the trip, both of which are abundant in this part of the country. Eventually we reached our hotel in a small and very quiet village, called Komlóska. The road ends at the village so there is no transit traffic at all.

Sunday, 2 May

Everyone woke up very early this morning and we had our pre-breakfast birding just around the hotel, along the 'main' road of the village, which runs beside a small stream. The garden of the hotel held Black Redstart, Serin and Tree Sparrow – all common birds during the whole trip - while the spruce trees hid a (White-headed) Long-tailed Tit's nest. The parent birds were busy feeding their young, so we could observe them every time we entered or left our hotel. During the walk we also saw some Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers, and we heard the first Common Nightingales. We also saw a pair of Marsh Tits.

After breakfast in the hotel restaurant, our local guide (also) Zoltán arrived. We started the birdwatching in a hill close to the hotel. Although we had to walk some steep slopes, the distances were not great, especially considering the birds we saw during this walk. Our main target here was White-backed Woodpecker. Though we had to wait for an hour, eventually we had good views of both, the male and female birds. The waiting was not wasted time as we saw Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers and many beautiful Collared Flycatchers just above our heads. One of them was angrily chasing away a Great Tit from his territory, just about five metres from our feet on the ground of the mature beech forest. While we were walking back to the car our first European Honey Buzzards (four migrating birds) were observed, and we also heard a calling Northern Goshawk. We had another stop on this hill where we saw a Tawny Owl.

As we still had some time before lunch, we parked our bus beside a grassy area, which is a good hunting place for raptors. The ground here was littered with thousands of purple blossomed orchids, while in the air, there was a Short-toed Eagle, with a snake in its talons, many Common Buzzards, some Western Marsh Harriers, a Common Raven and – for a short period – a Lesser Spotted Eagle also appeared. From the taller grass some Corncrakes were calling, and some of us managed to see the head of the calling male among the tall grass, but it disappeared all too quickly.

We set off to drive to the restaurant to have lunch, but suddenly our bus slowed down, and could not go faster than five km/h. It took an hour to reach the next petrol station, where we hoped to solve the problem, and from the bus we saw some Common Nightingales and while beside the petrol station we had prolonged views of a Wryneck. Unfortunately, this stop did not solve our main problem as the bus needed a mechanic, which meant another half an hour of slow driving. During this drive we saw many White Stork nests, which are a feature of almost all Hungarian settlements, but in one village (Bodrogkersztúr) they still breed on the chimneys of the old houses, while in other places they are usually on breeding platforms placed for them on the top of the lamp and electricity posts. As we waited for the mechanic to repair our bus, we observed a nice male Syrian Woodpecker (the 7th woodpecker species of the day) in the next garden, on the top of a spruce tree. It posed for us for three to four minutes. As it flew away, the bus was ready to go, so eventually we could eat our late lunch in the nearby restaurant.

Just a few kilometres away there was a nice bushy area, where River Warblers were singing and were really easy to see. Barred Warblers were also abundant, but a bit more difficult to see, as after their display flight they quickly disappeared into the bush, but eventually everyone managed to get a good view. The nearby poplar trees were alive with the song of male Golden Orioles.

We left this area to go to our last stop of the day, a quarry, where we hoped to see an Eurasian Eagle Owl. The area around the quarry held some new birds for the trip, such as Northern Wheatear, Whinchat, Common Whitethroat and calling Tree Pipits. On the wall of the quarry we managed to observe the well-developed Eagle Owl chicks through the scopes. As the sun was going down we returned to our hotel, as it had been a long and eventful day.

Monday, 3 May

As we had had a long day the day before and we still had a lot to see, the group decided to skip the early morning walk, and after breakfast we drove directly toward a forest near Erdőbénye. The weather was not as good as yesterday, as it was cloudy and we even had some rain, though it was not a problem in the forest.

After some walking, we saw a big shadow flying in the canopy of the tall trees. The bird eventually landed quite high in a beech tree, but we managed to find it and had a good and prolonged view of this magnificent female Ural Owl, our main target for the day. In the forest we heard Black Woodpeckers, saw some close Wood Warblers as well as Eurasian Nuthatches, which were busy sticking mud around the hole of their chosen nest site to reduce its size. The forest here was full of Common Starlings. Above a small clearing we saw an immature Eastern Imperial Eagle, while Common Cuckoos were calling all around. We saw dozens of this species during the rest of the trip.

We drove to a nearby quarry where we saw a beautiful adult Eurasian Eagle Owl and also a Northern Goshawk flying across the sky. We had our packed lunch in grassland, with scattered old oak trees and grazed by sheep. Above our heads we saw many Common and some European Honey Buzzards, two Common Ravens, two Black Storks and an Eastern Imperial Eagle. A Grey-headed Woodpecker landed on the tree above our heads and gave us excellent views, but suddenly it disappeared in the canopy and was not seen again, though we were sure it was still there.

As it was nice and sunny now (the opposite of the weather this morning), so we decided to go and look for raptors, close to the Bodrog River again. On the way we made a quick stop around the orchid field once more, where we heard, and some of us saw a Common Quail. Along the small road, tall grassy meadow habitat was perfect for Corncrake, and we heard many from the bus, and eventually saw two of them. By the river we observed a circling Black Kite and a Black Stork. A Eurasian Hobby was hunting above the field, when a White Stork and three more Black Storks appeared. They suddenly mixed with some Common Buzzards and two White-tailed Eagles and they circled in one thermal together overhead. The surrounding walnut plantations were loud with the call of Wrynecks. A Lesser Spotted Eagle appeared but unfortunately rather too far away.

After this experience, we drove to a narrow, forested valley, where we stopped at several places by a small stream to look for White-throated Dippers. As it was already after their breeding season, the adults and juveniles were dispersed along the streams, and we were not lucky enough to find one by the road, although some of us saw a fast flying White-throated Dipper over the stream. In one place a Grey Wagtail was

jumping on the top of the rocks beside a small bridge, while, some the group climbed up a steep hillside where they managed to see a second Ural Owl.

In the evening we drove a little further, and we stopped in a huge open area, where the landscape was perfect, with undulating grassland, old trees and forested hills with a background of small villages and an old castle on the top of the highest hill. The weather was also nice and in the nearby, dry bush two Red-backed Shrike and an exposed Wryneck made this stop interesting birdwise, while under them a Barred Warbler was singing and jumping in the denser part of the bush. As it was already evening, we drove back to our hotel, where beside our dinner we had a wine tasting session, and also heard an interesting lecture about the history of the village.

Tuesday, 4 May

Today we left the Zemplén hills and drove to the Hortobágy area. In the morning we packed into the bus, and started our two to three hours drive, but first we stopped by a huge quarry, where we walked by the road, and heard a male Rock Bunting singing. First it was rather shy, but eventually it flew to the top of a bush in perfect light and close enough for us to have really nice scope views of this beautiful bird.

Later we had a short stop in the town of Tokaj where, unfortunately, the European Bee-eater colony was still empty, as these birds usually occupy their breeding site towards the end of the first week of May. Only a Eurasian Sparrowhawk was circling above the sand walls.

After about an hour's driving we crossed a small town, called Újfehértó, and drove through agricultural land. We stopped at a dirt road, and tried to find some Greater Short-toed Larks. This was made more difficult by a tractor, working in the next field, as it was hard to hear the song of the bird. First, we saw a close Tawny Pipit with our scopes and eventually the lark was also found in the air and another one a bit further away sitting on the ploughed field.

We had a packed lunch today and we stopped to eat by a wetland, just outside the town. While we were eating we saw all three species of marsh terns – Whiskered, Black and White-winged plus Black-winged Stilts, Shoveler and Garganey. Waders were also around with Wood Sandpipers, Common and Spotted Redshanks, Common Greenshanks and many Ruffs in breeding plumage. We saw a Purple Heron flying overhead, while a nice male Penduline Tit was easy to observe just above our heads in the top of a bush.

After another hour driving we reached the Hortobágy, where we drove along a long and narrow tarmac road among the typical alkaline grasslands of the Hungarian '*puszta*'. As the winter and the spring were both rainy, the grass was unusually high and green. The birds were also good along this road and we saw a male Northern Yellow Wagtail (ssp *thunbergi*) and many singing Sedge Warblers from the bus. Western Marsh Harriers were really common, while we also saw our first ten or so Red-footed Falcons by a small forest patch. One pair perched up nicely just beside a male Lesser Great Shrike. The dirt roads around were full of Whinchats, and we also saw here two European Rollers. Eventually we drove among some barns where a flock of sheep was grazing. We walked in the well grazed grassland about 200 metres, when we noticed, that a pair of Stone Curlews was standing in front of us. Common Skylark was very common in the grassland and on the top of one the farm buildings a Little Owl was sitting. We walked onto the top of a small 10-15 metres hill – an ancient burial place – from where we saw hundreds of Greylag Geese, a small flock of Common Cranes and three Montagu's Harriers. One of the males flew very close beside us and in perfect light above the grassland called Angyalháza. As it was almost dark, we drove to our hotel, just beside Nádudvar, located in a small forest with a nice pond.

Wednesday, 5 May

This morning we headed towards the north-east part of the Hortobágy. After we crossed the small town of Balmazújváros, we stopped by a little road in a grassland which was full of flowers. Above the land Red-footed Falcons were hunting. We tried to find a Suslik, but the grass was too high to get a view of these interesting rodents.

Our next stop was a wetland, which was at the end of a long dirt road. From a farm we had to walk a couple of hundred metres to reach the area, where donkeys, horses and the special Hungarian Woolly Pigs were grazing. The shallow water proved to a perfect habitat for all the marsh tern species, while in the vegetated

areas Great and Little Egrets, Eurasian Spoonbills and Purple Herons were hunting. On a wooden fence an immature White-tailed Eagle was perched and a female Montagu's Harrier was flying in the distance. In the puddles two brightly coloured Red-throated Pipits were observed several times. Pied Avocets, Dunlin, Black-winged Stilts and other waders were feeding in the water and Ferruginous Ducks were swimming nearby. In a small bulrush patch some very close Bearded Reedling were seen. On our way out, we saw two Eurasian Hoopoes and we found a beautiful Penduline Tits' nest, and the adult birds.

As we drove towards our restaurant we stopped the bus by a little patch of water which had remained on the ploughed field after the heavy rain. Here, among the numerous Wood Sandpipers, we managed to see two Broad-billed Sandpipers which gave us stunning views.

We had lunch in Hortobágy village, and the group spent some time in the National Park Visitor Centre. After this we drove to Kaba, where the already closed sugar factory's pond system provides an excellent birding facility. The only remaining proper pond has a big island in the middle, where hundreds of Black-headed Gulls and some Common Terns were nesting. Among the gulls we saw adult Mediterranean Gulls. Many Black-necked Grebe (some sitting on nests), a few Little Grebes, Gadwall, a drake Pintail and a Common Shelduck, Pochard and Tufted and Ferruginous Ducks were observed. In the reedbeds we heard the song of many Great Reed Warblers as well as a singing Marsh Warbler hiding from us in the weedy vegetation. Eventually most of the group saw this bird too. Next to this pond, on shallow water many Pied Avocets and Black-winged Stilts were nesting. Here we saw some Little Ringed Plovers and had the opportunity to compare Temminck's and Little Stints, which were feeding either among or separately from the more numerous Dunlin.

We went to the nearby village Tetétlen, where the recent rains left some extensive flooded areas behind. Though the birds here were further away, among the few hundreds of Dunlin we found eventually a lone Curlew Sandpiper. We saw many Black-tailed Godwits and along the channels Savi's Warblers were singing and Reed Buntings were seen, while some of the group was lucky enough to see two Great Bitterns flying together. As it was quite late again, and there were not enough light to continue the birding, we returned to our hotel.

Thursday, 6 May

This morning we drove to the Hortobágy fishponds, the biggest pond system in Hungary. Here, we walked along the closest two ponds and found a singing Icterine Warbler, high on the top of a poplar tree. Our target species was Pygmy Cormorant and, as it has become more common in the last few years, it was easy to find. First we saw the overflying individuals, then, as we reached our first proper view of a pond, we saw the birds sitting and resting along the reedbeds.

In these reedbeds we saw many Bearded Reedling, with newly fledged juveniles, a Penduline Tit, many Savi's Warbler, a beautiful male Bluethroat and a skulking Moustached Warbler, with some nest material in its beak.

On the ponds we saw many Caspian Gulls, there was a huge colony of Black-headed Gulls, and we also saw a couple of Squacco Herons, Little Egrets, Purple and Black-crowned Night Herons. We also had excellent scope views of some male and female Golden Orioles. We returned to our bus, where we had a packed lunch at the picnic area, but because it started to rain we had to move under cover to finish our meal.

Our aim for the afternoon was to look for Great Bustard and Aquatic Warbler. As the latter usually starts to sing in the evening, we still had time to visit some other places, so we stopped by a big Common Sand Martin colony where a few pairs of European Bee-eater also nest. These birds had just arrived and occupied their nesting holes on the sand wall. In a nearby forest there is the biggest colony of Red-footed Falcons in the Hortobágy area, and we watched these magnificent and noisy birds through our scopes at a really close range. As we walked towards the bus, we had a mobile call from the ranger of the Bustard and Aquatic Warbler area, and he said a serious storm with heavy rain had just started and we should try to look for these birds tomorrow. We could see the fast moving black clouds in the southern skyline, so decided to move towards the hotel, but first to try a place for Great Bustard, which although was not a reliable area for this species, took very little effort to check. We were extremely lucky, as we saw a fine male through our scopes

so we saved a few kilometres of walking tomorrow. Not far from the Great Bustard, on a dry acacia tree, an adult Saker Falcon was feeding.

As we were approaching our hotel the group decided it was too early to finish for the day but as the black clouds from the south were approaching, we couldn't risk any walking so we instead we had a coffee break in Horobágy village. We arrived in time as the rain and wind arrived just after we entered the door. The wind picked up the wooden tables and seats outside of the restaurant, so we felt lucky to be inside. This storm split in two some of the nice, old willow trees by the pond at our hotel.

After the rain stopped we decided to visit a place where a late migrating Marsh Sandpiper has been reported. As the gate of this small pond system was closed we had to walk, and evidently arrived a day too late, as the Marsh Sandpiper was not there and we found only Wood Sandpipers and Ruffs. Interestingly we heard a Corncrake here from the grass, which is a rather scarce bird in the Hortobágy,

Friday, 7 May

In the early morning we managed to see a pair of Little Bittern flying and land in the small reed bed of our hotel's pond. They were especially nice as they were sitting together fully exposed and the light conditions were just superb.

The target species for today was Aquatic Warbler, and as it is an evening singer we had plenty of time to spend searching for other species. Our first stop was near Balmazújváros, by a farm building, from where we took a short walk to a watch tower. From here we had an overview of a small marshy pond where woolly pigs were grazing the surrounding and bulrush vegetation. There were all three species of marsh terns, a biggish flock of Ruff, a lone Curlew Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank. A few Eurasian Spoonbills were feeding in the dense vegetation, while Black-winged Stilts and Pied Avocets were feeding closer to our tower.

We took the road which crosses the Hortobágy in the north. Here, after we had already passed several miles of grassland, we saw a biggish buzzard-like raptor, which turned out to be a nice Long-legged Buzzard. On the other side of the road, there was a small forest patch, where several nest boxes were placed out for Kestrels and Red-footed Falcons. One of them was occupied by a pair of Long-eared Owls. One was sitting tightly in the box, so only its ear tufts were visible, but luckily we also found its mate, sitting in a nearby bush, and we have extremely good views. Not far from this place we climbed up a high tower where we saw at least four different White-tailed Eagles and also a flying Saker Falcon in the distance.

We had lunch in a fish-restaurant by the River Tisza. After lunch the group was interested in the technique used by the old ferry which crosses the river here. After we had watched it moving slowly towards the other bank of the river we visited the Tisza-tó, which is a huge artificial lake along the Tisza River. The biggest part of the lake is now covered with marshy vegetation, while bigger open water areas remained on the western side. Unfortunately today these areas held few water birds. The only new species for the trip was a drake Common Teal.

It was time to go to Nagyiván, where the bulk of the Hortobágy population of the rare Aquatic Warbler occurs. The Hortobágy is the only place in Hungary and outside Hungary there are very few other sites in the north-eastern parts of the continent where they breed. Also as they are real habitat specialists this makes their range more restricted. As it was so wet this year, everyone had to wear wellingtons to reach the site, where we spent 30 minutes or so, standing in the water, before we heard the song of this species, and soon we had a wonderful view of a male sitting not far away on the top of the grass. Later we had views of a few other individuals and as this habitat is quite far from our hotel, it was time to walk towards our bus. As a bonus, on the way out, we saw two Bluethroats by a small channel.

Saturday, 8 May

As it was our last morning, we decided to spend the rest of time beside Debrecen in the so called Great Forest. We had about two hours in this mature oak wood, before we had to start to Budapest Airport to catch the flight to London.

The forest birding started slowly, but eventually during this hours we managed to produce an impressive bird list. Most importantly we found the nest hole of the Middle Spotted Woodpecker, where both adults were busy carrying food for the hungry chicks, and we saw Lesser Spotted Woodpecker – the last woodpecker species missing from the trip list. We also found two Black, heard some Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers and we heard many and saw one perched Wryneck. It was really difficult to locate the Short-toed Treecreeper, but eventually we had close views, while on the top of the trees a few Collared Flycatchers were singing. Above the forest we saw two European Honey Buzzards and more interestingly we saw an immature Peregrine Falcon quite low down.

On the way back to the airport we saw two European Rollers from the bus as they were sitting on the wire by the road. We finished our checklist in the bus and arrived to the airport in time. We said our goodbyes to each other, after this action and bird-filled trip, where we managed to see almost all of the special birds of the Hungarian lowlands and hill country.

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July 2010

Many thanks to Tony Pym for the River Warbler on the front cover taken on the Ornitholidays 2008 Tour to Hungary

Itinerary and Weather

Saturday 1 May	London - Budapest - Zemplén-hills (via M3 motorway), where short visit to a vineyard and to a vantage point above the Bodrogzug wetlands Fine and sunny.
Sunday 2 May	Komlóska – Erdőbénye (Bundáskereszt) – Bodrogkeresztúr – Tokaj – Sárospatak (kőbánya) Generally good with a little rain, and a bit windy around noon.
Monday 3 May	Erdőbénye (Honvédüdülő – Fás-legelő – Bundáskereszt) – Aranyos-völgy - Regéc The morning was cloudy and rainy but the afternoon was hot and sunny
Tuesday 4 May	Tálya (kőbánya) – Újfehértó – drive to Hortobágy – Angyalháza Sunny, nice weather all day
Wednesday 5 May	Nagy-Vókonya – Hort – Kaba – Tetétlen Cloudy, very humid and warm
Thursday 6 May	Hortobágy-fishponds – Péteri-forest – Kócsújfalu – Kónya-fisponds Cloudy all day, with some rain in the morning, but heavy rains and storm in evening
Friday 7 May	Balamazújváros (Kerek-fenek) – Darassa – Dinnyés-lapos – Tiszacsege (lunch) – Poroszló (Tisza-lake) – Nagyiván A little bit cloudy and windy, but mainly sunny
Saturday 8 May	Debrecen: Nagy-erdő – Budapest Airport Sunny

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 = < 4
	2 = 5 - 9
	3 = 10 - 100
	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	5	4	<i>Anser anser</i>
Common Shelduck	1	1	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Eurasian Wigeon	1	1	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Gadwall	2	2	<i>Anas strepera</i>
Common Teal	1	1	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Mallard	8	3	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Northern Pintail	1	1	<i>Anas acuta</i>
Garganey	4	3	<i>Anas querquedula</i>
Northern Shoveler	3	3	<i>Anas clypeata</i>
Common Pochard	4	3	<i>Aythya ferina</i>
Ferruginous Duck	4	3	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Tufted Duck	1	1	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>
Little Grebe	2	1	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Common Quail	2	1	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>
Common Pheasant	8	3	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Great Crested Grebe	3	2	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-necked Grebe	1	3	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>
Great Cormorant	3	4	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Pygmy Cormorant	1	3	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>
Great Bittern	4	1	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>
Little Bittern	1	1	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>
Little Egret	2	2	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Black-crowned Night Heron	4	2	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Squacco Heron	1	1	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>
Great Egret	6	3	<i>Egretta alba</i>
Grey Heron	6	3	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Purple Heron	4	2	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
White Stork	8	3	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>
Black Stork	2	2	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>
Eurasian Spoonbill	4	3	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>
White-tailed Eagle	4	1	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>
Eastern Imperial Eagle	2	1	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>
Lesser Spotted Eagle	2	1	<i>Aquila pomarina</i>
Short-toed Eagle	2	1	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>
Black Kite	1	1	<i>Milvus migrans</i>
Montague's Harrier	2	1	<i>Circus pygargus</i>
Western Marsh Harrier	8	3	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Long-legged Buzzard	1	1	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>
Common Buzzard	8	3	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
European Honey Buzzard	3	1	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	2	1	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Northern Goshawk	2	1	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Common Kestrel	8	2	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Red-footed Falcon	4	3	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>
Hobby	2	1	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Saker Falcon	2	1	<i>Falco eleonora</i>
Peregrine Falcon	1	1	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Little Crake (heard only)	1	1	<i>Porzana parva</i>
Corncrake	1	1	<i>Crex crex</i>

Common Moorhen	2	1	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Common Coot	4	3	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Common Crane	1	3	<i>Grus grus</i>
Great Bustard	1	1	<i>Otis tarda</i>
Pied Avocet	2	3	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>
Black-winged Stilt	3	3	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>
Stone Curlew	1	1	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>
Little Ringed Plover	1	1	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>
Northern Lapwing	6	3	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Dunlin	1	4	<i>Calidris alpina</i>
Curlew Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>
Temminck's Stint	1	1	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>
Little Stint	1	1	<i>Calidris minuta</i>
Broad-billed Sandpiper	1	1	<i>Limicola falcinellus</i>
Common Sandpiper	3	1	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Wood Sandpiper	3	1	<i>Tringa glareola</i>
Common Redshank	4	2	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Spotted Redshank	3	1	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>
Common Greenshank	2	1	<i>Tringa nebularis</i>
Black-tailed Godwit	3	3	<i>Limosa limosa</i>
Ruff	4	4	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>
Black-headed Gull	6	5	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Mediterranean Gull	1	1	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>
Caspian Gull	3	4	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>
Common Tern	1	3	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Black Tern	4	3	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>
White-winged Black Tern	4	3	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>
Whiskered Tern	5	3	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>
Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	8	3	<i>Columba livia</i>
Stock Dove	2	1	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Common Wood-Pigeon	7	3	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Eurasian Collared Dove	8	3	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Turtle Dove	6	2	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Eurasian Eagle Owl	2	1	<i>Bubo bubo</i>
Ural Owl	1	1	<i>Strix uralensis</i>
Tawny Owl	1	1	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Little Owl	1	1	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Long-eared Owl	1	1	<i>Asio otus</i>
Common Swift	1	1	<i>Apus apus</i>
Eurasian Hoopoe	3	1	<i>Upupa epops</i>
European Bee-eater	2	2	<i>Merops apiaster</i>
European Roller	2	1	<i>Coracias Garrulus</i>
European Green Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Grey-headed Woodpecker	2	1	<i>Picus canus</i>
Black Woodpecker	3	1	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	1	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>
Syrian Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>
White-backed Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>
Eurasian Wryneck	7	1	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>
Crested Lark	7	2	<i>Galerida cristata</i>
Common Skylark	7	3	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Woodlark	1	1	<i>Lullula arborea</i>
Greater Short-toed Lark	1	1	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>
Barn Swallow	8	4	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Common Sand Martin	3	4	<i>Riparia riparia</i>
Common House Martin	7	3	<i>Delichon urbica</i>
Tawny Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus campestris</i>
Tree Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>
Red-throated Pipit	1	1	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>
Yellow Wagtail	7	3	<i>Motacilla flava flava</i>
(Northern Yellow Wagtail)	1	1	<i>Motacilla flava thunbergii</i>

Grey Wagtail	1	1	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White Wagtail	7	2	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
European Robin	-	2h 1	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>
Common Nightingale	8	3	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>
Bluethroat	2	1	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Common Redstart	2	1	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>
Black Redstart	6	2	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
Northern Wheatear	5	1	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>
Whinchat	2	3	<i>Saxicola ruberta</i>
Common Stonechat	7	3	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>
Song Thrush	6	2	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>
Common Blackbird	8	2	<i>Turdus merula</i>
Barred Warbler	2	1	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>
Blackcap	8	1	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Common Whitethroat	5	1	<i>Sylvia communis</i>
Lesser Whitethroat	4	1	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>
Savi's Warbler	3	2	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>
River Warbler	1	1	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>
Sedge Warbler	4	3	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>
Aquatic Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>
Moustached Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>
Marsh Warbler	1	1	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>
European Reed Warbler	4	3	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>
Great Reed Warbler	5	3	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Icterine Warbler	1	1	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>
Willow Warbler	1	1	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Wood Warbler	5	2	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>
Common Chiffchaff	5	1	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Winter Wren	2	1	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>
Dipper	1	1	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>
Spotted Flycatcher	4	2	<i>Muscicapa srtiata</i>
Collared Flycatcher	2	2	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>
Great Tit	5	2	<i>Parus major</i>
Coal Tit (heard only)	1	1	<i>Periparus ater</i>
European Blue Tit	4	2	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Marsh Tit	2	1	<i>Poecile palustris</i>
Long-tailed Tit	5	1	<i>Aegithalos caudatus cudatus & europeus</i>
Bearded Reedling	2	3	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>
Eurasian Penduline-Tit	3	1	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>
Eurasian Nuthatch	3	2	<i>Sitta europaea</i>
Short-toed Treecreeper	1	1	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>
Lesser Grey Shrike	3	1	<i>Lanius minor</i>
Red-backed Shrike	8	3	<i>Lanius collurio</i>
Eurasian Jay	4	1	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>
Common Magpie	8	3	<i>Pica pica</i>
Western Jackdaw	3	3	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
Rook	5	4	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>
Hooded Crow	7	3	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Common Raven	2	1	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Common Starling	8	4	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>
Eurasian Golden Oriole	8	2	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>
House Sparrow	8	4	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Tree Sparrow	7	3	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Common Chaffinch	8	3	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>
European Greenfinch	8	3	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>
European Goldfinch	8	3	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>
Eurasian Linnet	4	1	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>
European Serin	7	2	<i>Serinus serinus</i>
Hawfinch	3	2	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>
Reed Bunting	3	3	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>
Yellowhammer	6	2	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>
Rock Bunting	1	1	<i>Emberiza cia</i>
Corn Bunting	8	3	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>

MAMMALS

Red Fox
Stoat
Roe Deer
Red Squirrel
Muskrat
Brown Hare
Hedgehog

AMPHIBIANS

Yellow-bellied Toad
Fire-bellied Toad
'Green' Frog (esculenta group)
Dalmatian Frog

BUTTERFLIES

Scarce Swallowtail
Swallowtail
Orange-tip
Green-veined White
Southern Festoon
Painted Lady
Camberwell Beauty
Peacock
Silver-washed Fritillary
Small Copper
Chequered Skipper

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