

TRIP REPORT HUNGARY BIRDS AND MUSIC 2015

Ecotours Wildlife Holidays

Thursday 27 August Day 1

We were a party of five from the North of Scotland. The stunning beauty of the area where we live means that the group has varied outdoor pursuits and are keen but not dedicated birdwatchers. Two of our members had never been on a birding holiday to Continental Europe and so the trip was designed to include a mix of birding, music, culture and a few surprises as well. It is a good way of trying out such a holiday when birding is a relatively new interest.

We arrived in Budapest after comfortable flights from Aberdeen via Frankfurt. What was immediately noticeable was the heat and the temperatures were to remain high (25-35 degrees Centigrade) throughout the entire holiday. It seems that most of continental Europe has experienced untypically extreme weather during the summer. Our taxi took us from the airport SE of Budapest into the City Centre and as we crossed the Danube and followed the river along the shore, the traffic slowed and we had time to admire the old stone buildings in the evening sun as it shone weakly on the decorative stonework.

We settled into our rooms at the Art'Otel. By now the sun had set and four of us enjoyed a delicious meal with riverside views looking across to Pest with the Parliament Building stunningly illuminated against a dark sky. We then went for a walk to enjoy the riverside and the illumination of the buildings at night. We crossed the Danube by the Chain Bridge built in 1849 to link Buda with Pest and was opened as the first permanent bridge across the river. The construction was supervised by Scottish engineer Adam Clark and a Terrace nearby is named after him. Once we had crossed the bridge we could look up to Castle Hill and see the spectacular illumination of the Royal Palace. The river was busy with traffic, mainly cruise ships and lots of locals were enjoying the ambience of the riverside. We walked past the front of the Parliament Building.

The Parliament Building is the house of the National Assembly or Diet. The Diet goes back to medieval times and was mainly feudal in character. However, the National Assembly was the vehicle of sovereignty and had the right to elect a king whenever the order of succession was disrupted. Significant changes along more modern parliamentary lines were introduced in 1848 during the Revolution and the subsequent War of Independence. This was all lost when the Hungarian parliament was suspended following the failure of the revolution. The period of the Dual Monarchy led to relative independence in internal affairs and a peaceful 50 years for Hungary. Dissolution of the dual monarchy following World War I was the period when the Assembly resolved to establish a new, representative Parliament Building, expressing the sovereignty of the nation. Inside, the parliament is symmetrical and thus has two absolutely identical parliament halls one of which is used for the National Assembly, the other one is used for guided tours. One of the famous parts of the building is the sixteen-sided central hall, with huge chambers adjoining it: the Lower

House and the Upper House. The modern National Assembly meets in the Lower House, while the Upper House is used as a conference and meeting room.

We crossed back to Buda via the Margaret Bridge which became the second permanent bridge in Budapest after the Chain Bridge. This bridge allows access to Margaret Island used for recreational purposes. Large, yellow, bendy, electrified trams crossed the bridge frequently as we walked across. The last part of the walk was devoid of lighting and we had to pick our way round large areas of construction, apparently due to the installation of new tramlines. We finally made it to our Hotel.

Friday 28 August Day 2

After breakfast, we met Monika Szladiak, who I was so pleased to meet after the many emails we had exchanged to arrange the trip. She took us on a sightseeing trip of her native Budapest and it was an added bonus to have someone who showed great pride in her city. On the way to Castle Hill we stopped at one of the many Town Houses that feature this older part of Buda. They once belonged to middle class families probably of the Austro-Hungarian Empire era and now are split into flats on 3-4 floors. Monika talked to one of the residents and we were able to step into the cool interior of the inner courtyard and gaze upwards.

We then caught a bus which took us up to the top of Castle Hill. Here we had great views across the Danube and over to Pest. We strolled past more expensive, well restored Town Houses in pastel shades of yellow, green and pink. We moved to the National Archive and Matthias Church recently restored in late 19th century. The roofs of these building are covered in the famous Zsolnay ceramic tiles of orange/brown, turquoise and greens glowing sensationally in the bright sun. Matthias Church forms part of a large square of buildings including the Fisherman's Bastion situated on the edge of Castle Hill. The place was full of people from the various river cruise boats: a very busy place and much photographed. Buda, during the rule of King Matthias Corvinus in the 15th century, became a centre for Renaissance humanist culture. The library of Matthias Bibliotheca Corviniana was Europe's greatest collection of historical chronicles; philosophic and scientific works second only to the Vatican library. We moved onto the enormous Royal Palace where there was a marvellous statue of Matthias dominating a hunting scene having slain a deer and below him various members of the hunting party (blowing horns for example) and accompanied by dogs. It is a magnificently sculptured copper statue with water flowing down it. Nearby we admired another statue depicting a Magyar demonstrating the horsemanship of that era. The skill of the sculptor shows drama and arrogance as well as amazing detail in the costume. The Royal Palace had been restored but was a little shabby: best seen at night. It was never occupied because the Habsburgs remained in Vienna and it now houses various museums and art galleries; an enormous edifice and a challenge to keep well maintained.

Feeling the heat, we were glad to walk down Castle Hill in the shade of trees beside the Funicular and we could see below us a queue of people waiting to ride on it. We watched the two polished, wooden carriages passing one another and at the bottom of the hill we could see the entrance to a

road tunnel built underneath Castle Hill to simplify road communication west from the City Centre. We crossed the Chain Bridge and took the Millennium Underground (passing some attractively designed stations on the way) arriving at Heroes Square which lies at one end of Andrassy Avenue. It is thought that the Magyars were originally from the east side of the Ural Mountains and around the 4th century started to move west living together with many different ethnic groups along the way until they arrived to the Carpathian basin in 896AD and settled. The central feature of Heroes Square is the Memorial marking the Millennium of 1896. There is a cenotaph behind which is a column topped by a statue of the archangel Gabriel. In his right hand the angel holds the Holy Crown of St. Stephen, the first king of Hungary. In his left hand the angel holds a two barred apostolic cross, a symbol awarded to St. Stephen by the Pope in recognition of his efforts to convert Hungary to Christianity. At the base of the column is a group of seven mounted figures representing the Magyar chieftains who led the Hungarian people into the Carpathian basin. In the front is Árpád, considered the founder of the Hungarian nation. Behind him are the chieftains Előd, Ond, Kond, Tas, Huba, and Töhötöm (Tétény). Little survives in the historical record about these individuals and both their costumes and their horses are considered to be more fanciful than historically accurate. The chieftains are depicted sporting magnificent moustaches and the sculpture shows the horses and men as if they are about to come alive. Again, it seemed to be about hunting as we could see dead beasts draped over the horse's necks. To the left and right of the column are 2 colonnades each with 7 statues of notable figures in Hungarian history including Stephen and Matthias.

We then made our way to the City Park, a tranquil place with weeping willows fringing a small lake and a copy of a Transylvanian Castle adding a romantic touch to the lakeside. Our tour ended with a rest and drink at a Cafe where we could sit outside in the shade. Monika was thanked for being such an excellent guide, giving us lots of interesting background and insights and answering all our questions.

We encountered heavy traffic on the way back and our bus was held up in long queues. Finally we were back at our hotel and the group were able to meet our guide Balazs Szigeti who had some delicious sandwiches waiting for us. We said goodbye to Monika and left the city.

We stopped at Ocsa, a folk museum in attractive gardens. It is also a bird ringing and research centre and was where Balazs started his interest in Natural History as a bird ringer. The museum is full of lovely dolls in a variety of traditional costumes and we moved through rooms each giving an impression of different aspects of rural life in the past. In the garden, we saw a Syrian Woodpecker. Finally we made it to the Forster Hotel in the village of Bugyi where we were to stay for 3 nights.

There was time to settle into our rooms before we returned to the city for a wonderful concert at St Stephen's Basilica at 8pm. The programme was Bach's Toccata, Air and Fugue followed by Mozart's Requiem. The Basilica is the most important church building in Hungary and has played an active role in the musical community since its consecration in 1905. The interior of the venue is fabulously ornate and we had time before and after the concert to explore and look up at the high dome. Then we were back at the hotel and a delicious Caesar salad was waiting for us as none of us were hungry before we set off for the concert. It had been a long and exciting day.

Saturday 29 August Day 3

We had breakfast at 7.30 am and Balazs had bought various supplies for lunch from which we could make up our own sandwich and this became a routine for the rest of the holiday. We also had supplies of water every day, especially as it was so hot. We then drove into Kiskunsag National Park (NP) which lies between the rivers Danube and Tisza. It is not a single territory but comprises 7 separate units scattered throughout the area. We went to the Apaj Puszta. Puszta means steppe and the whole of the Great Hungarian Plain apparently forms an exclave of the Eurasian steppe. The steppe landscape comprises treeless plains, saline lakes, scattered sand dunes, low, wet forests, freshwater marshes. We were in an area of maize and sunflower fields and where there was a chance of Great Bustard and soon we saw groups of them flying showing white on the wings. One or two remained and eventually came out into the open to allow good detail in the telescope. We could see them panting in the heat and sympathise. A number of birds of prey showed well including a juvenile Eastern Imperial Eagle flying then settling in a tree. Several marsh harrier both male and female were seen flying low hunting for prey and also buzzard and kestrel were visible. White-tailed eagle circled above before heading to rest in a tree. Finally, there appeared a strong flying peregrine to round off the show. European rollers were sitting in dead trees, red-backed shrike perched on posts and European bee-eaters balanced on wires showing their colours in the strong sunlight.

We eventually moved to one of the many tall wooden towers scattering the landscape (for hunting). This one was beside some large fish ponds. We had lunch accompanied by the Balazs specialty of making Brazilian coffee in the field. We then climbed the steep steps to the roofed platform at the top providing shade and accompanied by a welcome breeze. We looked down on the fish ponds where there was a tight bunch of mallard and coot. Amongst them were a few pochard and ferruginous duck. Greylag and mute swan flew in towards the far side of the wetland area. Back down from the tower we witnessed a migrant flock of red-footed falcon. We could see males with their red trousers and females with their rufous-buff breast. Perched in a tree were 2 adults (m&f) and a juvenile which could be seen well in the scope.

We then moved to other areas and near a pond were a large congregation of Hungarian Grey Cattle with their magnificent horns. Water buffalo were enjoying a wallow and one in particular was submerged with just a head showing. Our last stop was near a canal. From the van were more red-footed falcon, many purple heron, a motionless spoonbill and a short walk produced a fishing kingfisher and a little bittern. The wet grassy area was transformed into a pink haze by large numbers of flowering rush (confusingly called a rush but in fact a tall flower liking wet areas).

We returned to the village for an ice cream and more water for tomorrow. Our meal consisted of Goulasch soup, schnitzel with vegetables or salad and a dessert of pancakes with jam. Then it was back to Budapest for another wonderful concert; this time at Matthias Church near Fisherman's Bastion arriving in time to admire the outside and inside of the magnificent church. The current building was constructed in the florid, late Gothic style in the 14th century and restored in the 19th century. It was where the coronations took place from about the time of Emperor Franz Joseph. The rich music life of several centuries made the church a special church music centre of Hungary. Once again we were near the front and the concert started with Bach's Toccato and Fugue. Both churches had magnificent organs but I thought this one had a richer sound. There followed a varied programme featuring the Hungarian Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra with a number of soloists but the young tenor was the star. He sang the familiar Ave Maria amongst other things and despite his youth radiated warmth and calmness to the audience (or so I thought) with no apparent nerves. After the concert, Balazs managed to talk to the tenor (and his mentor) and discovered he has just turned 18!!

It was a very warm night and we found a bar/restaurant area nearby where we could enjoy a drink in the warm night air and catch up on our check list. A wonderfully relaxed and attractive setting in a very beautiful city: I never thought I would ever experience a magic moment for a species list! Then it was back to the hotel.

Sunday 30 August Day 4

Forster Hotel is situated in lovely grounds of tall trees and is a complex of different buildings offering a choice of accommodation mainly for corporate functions and weddings. We were the only guests in the building where our rooms were but there was a wedding on the Saturday afternoon/evening. The nicely appointed restaurant was a short distance from our rooms. The buildings were in good condition of rich, deep yellow walls and dark brown roofs.

After breakfast, we drove to another part of Kiskunsag NP and the Tisza River floodplain aiming for marshy areas. We looked down on a large lake/marsh complex from a tall mound and a Church in the background. There were masses of spoonbill feeding using their distinctive sweeping action. Amongst the many purple heron, grey heron and great egret was a black stork. There were buzzard, marsh harrier and a circling white-tailed eagle. The place was rich in dragonflies including ruddy darter.

It was here that we met Istvan Bartol who is a warden of Kiskunsag NP. He graduated as a biologist at the University of Science in Szeged. He took us to another part of the reserve where there was a locked gate and there was a pause while Istvan tried to find where he had put the keys. While we waited Elsa regaled us with the now famous story of the lost car keys of Findhorn Bay in Moray; not lost at all thankfully and so it was with Istvan. The key problem resolved, we had a short walk and Istvan explained some of the ecology of the area including the problems of alien species. The area where we were is flooded in the Spring and then starts to dry out until the next rains.

We went to a tower of the same design as yesterday, from where we had a good view of a swamp gradually drying out and full of the leaves of water lilies. Istvan described the floods of 2009 when the water levels were unbelievably high. We had good views of ferruginous duck in the scope, many little egret, spoonbill and a rather skulking spotted redshank in non-breeding plumage. Some squacco heron flew in showing white when flying and yellow when perched in the swamp. White-tailed eagle soared above us. We had lunch at Oriole Ecolodge in the village of Tiszaalpar. This renovated old country house is run by Istvan and his wife Reka and has 7 rooms. It is the base for the Ecotours Photography Centre of 15 hides where birds can be seen really close and therefore ideal for keen photographers or just to enjoy the birds close up particularly in the breeding season. We sat round the kitchen table and enjoyed our usual sandwich plus ice cream and Brazilian coffee. It was so hot that we relaxed in the garden under shade.

We returned to the same wet area as we had looked down on in the morning but this time within striking distance of the water's edge. Much tall vegetation came between us and the water but we could manage to see ranks of great cormorant and amongst them a few pygmy cormorant which Balazs "scoped". We spent time looking at whiskered terns flying over the water with black-headed gulls. The terns were in non-breeding plumage with some in breeding plumage showing dark bodies contrasting with white cheeks below the black crown of the head. A more appropriate name would be white-cheeked tern which is the Hungarian name for the bird.

We then left the area for a different drier habitat where the target species was Saker falcon, the second largest falcon, the first being Gyr falcon. Pylons dominated the area and in one of them was a nest box of aluminium situated high up and safe from thieves wishing to steal the valuable eggs/chicks. Time and patience was required to see these birds and ever mindful of not causing any disturbance to them. At first it was nothing but kestrel but then came some tantalising views and finally a male and female settled calmly in 2 neighbouring pylons. The larger female was in full view and the male almost as good and well seen by all in the scope. We left them unmoved by our departure and returned to the hotel. The meal was of soup, pork and liver for main course and finishing with a traditional Hungarian dessert. We experienced a rare event: an evening in the hotel!

Monday 31st August Day 5

We had an early morning walk and saw many hawfinch. Nuthatches were as noisy as ever and sometimes visible. We had good views of short-toed treecreeper as well as a young male golden oriole that sat obligingly in the top of a tree. Also near the top of the same tree was a spotted flycatcher flying back and forth catching insects in a manner so characteristic of the species. We heard Syrian Woodpecker. After breakfast, we set off for Bukk NP.

Once we had circled round Budapest, we headed onto muddy tracks and fields of sunflower in order to reach Borsodi Mezoseg, a Grassland Protected Area. We had brilliant views of juvenile Imperial Eagle circling so low we could see the plumage in detail above and below. More muddy tracks took us to Little Hortobagy where there was no sunflower cultivation, the focus being on cattle production. We stopped to admire a roller perched on a wire long enough for us to study it in detail.

We had a very nice lunch stop at White Horse Pension. We had our sandwich in the shade and were provided with a beautifully carved table and stools. There was a lesser whitethroat in a bush and a short-toed snake eagle on a pylon. We moved onto a shallow lake called Tukor To and from an open hide we were treated to a variety of waders. There were a huge number of lapwing and 4 crane standing with elegance and poise in the middle of the water. Amongst the waders was a ruff busily feeding, curlew, snipe, curlew sandpiper, wood sandpiper, greenshank also busily feeding and unusually for Hungary golden plover in breeding plumage. Continuing on muddy tracks there was the opportunity to view a Saker for the second day running on a pylon with outstretched wings and looking rather heat stressed. There was a red-footed falcon on the wire nearby. We returned to tarmac roads to complete our journey and a cuckoo flew across the front of the van. We finally reached Bukk NP and began to climb into hills covered with trees: a completely different habitat. We passed through lovely villages of single storey houses in pastel shades and our last village was Noszvaj where we were staying at the Nomad Hotel for 3 nights. We were greeted by Barbara who runs the hotel with her family and it is a wonderful place full of character, comfortable rooms and delicious food.

We settled into our rooms and then made for the outside bar and the adjoining restaurant area all undercover and in shade and looking out at a swimming pool. We had a deliciously flavoured tomato based soup and 3 main courses were placed before us of stew, fish and pasta and far exceeded my expectations in taste and presentation. Maybe because it was from food obtained locally. Finally we had a wonderfully wicked chocolate dessert.

At 6pm, we were off again for a bat experience; a surprise for us all. On the drive, we stopped briefly for a Lesser Spotted Eagle in a tree, poised as if ready for a classic illustration in a field guide showing the salient details. We travelled through beautiful forest of mixed deciduous trees including beech (Bukk in Hungarian) and scanned for Ural Owl and we saw one as it flew off. We finally made our way along a very rough track barely seen below the tall grass and arrived at the entrance to a cave. It did not look like a cave entrance as it was sealed off except for a small entrance for the bats to enter and exit from a mating roost. We were introduced to our bat expert Peter Gombkoto whose works as a zoological supervisor. He was putting up a mist net across the small cave entrance. It was not long before bats were caught in the net and Peter disentangled them and was able to show us an astonishing 9 species of bat before he released them.

We felt very privileged to see them so close and admire the detail of their anatomy and the adaptations required for night time hunting. Of course echolocation is the means of locating prey especially moths but each species has a particular hunting technique. For example, Barbastelle catch moths in flight along woodland edges. There are gleaning bats that pick up prey such as spiders from the vegetation and there are bats that hunt over water (Pond and Daubenton's). We admired the delicacy of the wings and the softness of their fur. The lifespan of bats ranges from 15-35 years and one baby is carried and suckled for 2 weeks and then the babies go to a nursery attended by one adult as carer. During the midst of all this Bela Tokody arrived from Szeged to join the bat experience. He is working on a 3 year roller project and has recently joined the Ecotours team of guides. We were extremely appreciative of the time Peter had taken on our behalf for what was for all of us a very special event. It was time to go after some expert manoeuvring of the vehicles on very rough ground and back onto tarmac roads and a longish drive back. We appreciated the effort Balazs had expended in organising the bat evening.

Tuesday 1st September Day 6

Today we headed for the Hor valley and had a pleasant walk along a well made track in a cool shady forest. Our first encounter along the track was a muddy pool full of butterflies such as common glider, great banded greyling, silver-washed fritillary and an immature rock bunting was also taking a drink. There was much trying for white-backed woodpecker without success but we did find a lesser-spotted woodpecker. We had lunch by the van and then drove to a meadow Hidegkut Laposa where there were some Hungarian Grey Cattle and a shepherd minding them: an almost biblical scene. There was one of the traditional T-shaped wells so evocative of the flat landscape of the Hortobagy further east. We parked the van in the shade of 2 oak trees to wait for birds of prey but it seemed too hot even for them. We went for an ice cream and then drove to a parking area and took a short walk to a spectacular viewpoint Odor Var where we could look down both sides of sloping hills and across to more distant forested hills. After resting and admiring we returned to the car parking area and were rewarded with brilliant views of short-toed snake eagle flying low so we could pick out the markings on the underside of its pale plumage. For this day, we had the pleasure of Bela's company and the opportunity to ask him about the roller project but unfortunately he could not join us for a meal as he had to get back home. We returned to the hotel and our meal was accompanied by complimentary wine from Ecotours for returning clients: we could only manage 2 of the 3 bottles!

Wednesday 2nd September Day 7

We had an early morning walk in the attractive environs of the hotel. After breakfast, Dorothy and Elsa felt that they should stay and rest in the hotel due to the heat. Balazs gave them directions for a walk that could be done from the hotel and that proved enjoyable taken at a slow pace.

The remainder of the party set off for Hór-völgyi tározó, a wetland area which proved very productive. Both lesser spotted eagle and short-toed eagle flew low over some trees or directly above us. On or near the water were 4 kinds of dove including a close view of the endearing turtle dove. Waders included wood sandpiper, avocet, lapwing and snipe. However, it was the adult white-tailed eagle that was the most memorable with the sun shining through its white feathers as it circled while being harassed by marsh harrier and buzzard.

We returned to the cool Hor valley and at last found the white-backed woodpecker as it moved restlessly through the trees: a bird that cannot stay in one place for long at least at this time of year. On the way back we went to a quarry but it was no longer occupied by an eagle owl. These birds are doing well in Hungary eating rats.

When we returned to the hotel there was time for some stunning videos of Slovenia and Croatia to get an idea of what trips are like there with Ecotours. We then set off for a wine tasting evening. There was first a tour of the Thummerer wine cellars near Eger started in 1984. The cellars were blissfully cool and the walls black with fungi and Mrs Thummerer showed us round very expertly. There was an old part with lots of large old wooden barrels and a new part of shining stainless steel containers. The cellars produce international wines and local wines. We did not have the oven baked meal as there were not enough people booked to justify firing up the oven. Instead, we were directed to a small restaurant where we enjoyed a 6 course meal accompanied by a different wine for each course. Mrs Thummerer explained each wine in detail and how it matched up with the particular course which accompanied it. Each course was mercifully small in size so we could appreciate the flavours without overeating. It was a delightful evening and especially appropriate as it was the 48th wedding anniversary of Kath and Dave which made a great celebration for them. A wonderful end to the day

Thursday 3rd September Day 8

An early morning walk produced good views of black redstart at last; usually a very common bird in Hungary. Also seen were middle-spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker and marsh tit on wire. We left our luggage in storage and after breakfast set off for Tamás kútjaa, a wood where we enjoyed a cool and pleasant walk. On the way were lesser spotted eagle and Montagu's harrier flying over a wooded ridge. In the wood we found white-backed woodpecker for Dorothy and Elsa. We moved a little further up the hill for lunch. We returned to our hotel via the Tufa houses: cave dwellings cut into soft rhyolite tuff and I believe occupied about 200 years ago. They are now a place for artists to restore and develop some imaginative designs within the caves. Back at the hotel we showered and changed, drove to Budapest for a meal at a Belgian restaurant followed by our last concert. This time it was music and dance by the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble, founded in 1951, the most famous traditional dance group in Hungary whose aims are to be both spectacular and authentic. There is a huge repertoire of Transylvanian folkdance and folk music and this company is helping to keep this alive. The costumes were very colourful and the dancers fast and

agile with lots of whirling, thigh slapping and jumping. There were 2 violins, cello, double base and 2 female singers and one male; the music being as vibrant as the dancing. As we left, there were other rooms in the Hungarian Heritage House where young people were practising the dancing which was also fascinating to watch. We returned to the Forster Hotel for our last night in Hungary.

Friday 4th September Day 9

We drove to the airport for a 1040 departure. Balazs had spent a good 2 hours the previous night producing a DVD of videos he had made of various moments in our varied holiday. A very nice memento of a great holiday and we all expressed our appreciation before saying goodbye and passing through the various airport formalities before boarding the plane for Frankfurt. We had about 3h at Frankfurt during which we had a meal and that saved cooking on returning home. We arrived back at Aberdeen airport on time at 5pm where Kath and Dave journeyed home by car and the rest of us managed aboard the crowded commuter train back to Elgin and Forres.

Bird of the Trip

Dorothy	Great Bustard
Elsa	Saker
Kath	Little Bittern
Dave	Little Bittern
Hilary	Juvenile Imperial Eagle flying low showing plumage in great detail

Other Species special for the trip

Dave, Dorothy, Elsa, Kath	Bat experience
Hilary	Butterflies in puddle especially the Common Glider



Magic Moment

Dorothy	Folk Dance evening
Elsa	Hidegkut Laposa, Hungarian Grey Cattle with shepherd: a biblical scene
Kath	Species list after second concert at bar/restaurant at Matthias Church
Dave	Achieving a clear photo shot of Great Bustard
Hilary	Bat experience

Special Place

Dorothy	Nomad Hotel and surrounding area
Elsa	Bukk Forest and Nomad Hotel
Kath	Odor Var
Dave	Lunch at White Horse Pension and Tukor To
Hilary	Odor Var

Hilary Rolton

Some Photo Memories



Great Bustard



Saker Falcon



Little Bittern



Bat in hand



Common Glider



Spoonbill

BIRDS

Tachybaptus ruficollis	Little Grebe	Recurvirostra avosetta	Avocet
Podiceps nigricollis	Black-necked Grebe	Pluvialis apricaria	Golden Plover
Phalacrocorax carbo	Great Cormorant	Vanellus vanellus	Lapwing
Phalacrocorax pygmeus	Pygmy Cormorant	Calidris ferruginea	Curlew Sandpiper
Botaurus stellaris	Bittern	Tringa glareola	Wood Sandpiper
Ixobrychus minutus	Little Bittern	Tringa erythropus	Spotted Redshank
Ardeola ralloides	Squacco Heron	Tringa nebularia	Greenshank
Egretta garzetta	Little Egret	Actitis hypoleucos	Common Sandpiper
Egretta alba	Great Egret	Numenius arquata	Curlew
Ardea cinerea	Grey Heron	Gallinago gallinago	Snipe
Ardea purpurea	Purple Heron	Philomachus pugnax	Ruff
Ciconia nigra	Black Stork	Larus ridibundus	Black-headed Gull
Platalea leucorodia	Eurasian spoonbill	Larus cachinnans	Caspian Gull
Cygnus olor	Mute Swan	Chlidonias hybridus	Whiskered Tern
Anser anser	Greylag	Chlidonias leucopterus	White-winged Tern
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard	Columba livia	Rock Dove
Anas crecca	Teal	Columba oenas	Stock Dove
Aythya ferina	Pochard	Columba palumbus	Wood Pigeon
Aythya nycora	Ferruginous Duck	Streptopelia decaocto	Collared Dove
Haliaeetus albicilla	White-tailed Eagle	Streptopelia turtur	Turtle Dove
Aquila heliaca	Eastern Imperial Eagle	Cuculus canorus	Cuckoo
Aquila pomarina	Lesser Spotted Eagle	Strix uralensis	Ural Owl
Circaetus gallicus	Short-toed Eagle	Alcedo atthis	Kingfisher
Circus aeruginosus	Marsh Harrier	Merops apiaster	European Bee-eater
Circus pygargus	Montagu's Harrier	Coracias garrulous	European Roller
Buteo buteo	Common Buzzard	Dryocopus martius	Black Woodpecker
Accipiter nisus	Sparrowhawk	Picus viridis	Green Woodpecker
Falco tinnunculus	Kestrel	Picus canus	Grey-headed Woodpecker
Falco vespertinus	Red-footed Falcon	Dendrocopos major	Great-spotted Woodpecker
Falco subbuteo	Hobby	Dendrocopos syriacus	Syrian Woodpecker
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	Dendrocopos medius	Middle-spotted Woodpecker
Falco cherrug	Saker Falcon	Dendrocopos leucotos	White-backed Woodpecker
Perdix perdix	Grey partridge	Dendrocopos minor	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
Phasianus colchicus	Pheasant	Alauda arvensis	Skylark
Grus grus	Crane	Riparia riparia	Sand Martin
Gallinula chloropus	Moorhen	Hirundo rustica	Barn Swallow
Fulica atra	Coot	Delichon urbica	House Martin
Otis tarda	Great Bustard		

BIRDS (cont'd)

Motacilla alba
 Motacilla flava
 Motacilla cinerea
 Troglodytes troglodytes
 Erithacus rubecula
 Phoenicurus ochrurus
 Oenanthe oenanthe
 Saxicola torquata
 Turdus philomelos
 Turdus merula
 Sylvia atricapilla
 Sylvia curruca
 Acrocephalus scirpaceus
 Phylloscopus trochilus
 Phylloscopus collybita
 Muscicapa striata
 Parus major
 Parus ater
 Cyanistes caeruleus
 Poecile palustris
 Aegithalos caudatus
 Panurus biarmicus
 Sitta europaea
 Certhia familiaris
 Certhia brachydactyla
 Lanius collurio
 Garrulus glandarius
 White Wagtail
 Yellow Wagtail
 Grey Wagtail
 Wren
 Robin
 Black Redstart
 Wheatear
 Stonechat
 Song Thrush
 Blackbird
 Blackcap
 Lesser Whitethroat
 Reed Warbler
 Willow Warbler
 Chiffchaff
 Spotted Flycatcher
 Great Tit
 Coal Tit
 Blue Tit
 Marsh Tit
 Long-tailed Tit
 Bearded Reedling
 Nuthatch
 Treecreeper
 Short-toed Treecreeper
 Red-backed Shrike
 Jay

Mammals

Vulpes vulpes
 Capreolus capreolus
 Lepus europaeus
 Rhinolophus ferrumequinum
 Rhinolophus hipposideros
 Barbastella barbastellus
 Myotis alcaethoe
 Myotis marginatus
 Myotis nattereri
 Myotis bechsteinii
 Myotis dasycneme
 Myotis daubentonii
 Red fox
 Roe Deer
 European Hare
 Greater Horseshoe Bat
 Lesser Horseshoe Bat
 Barbastelle
 Alcaethoe's Bat
 Geoffroy's Bat
 Natterer's Bat
 Bechstein's Bat
 Pond Bat
 Daubenton's Bat

Amphibians

Bombina bombina
 Pelophylax ridibundus
 European fire-bellied toad
 Marsh frog

Dragonflies

Sympetrum sanguineum
 Aeshna mixta
 Ruddy Darter
 Migrant Hawker

Butterflies

Colias crocea
 Vanessa atalanta
 Argynnis paphia
 Neptis Sappho
 Brintesia circe
 Clouded Yellow
 Red Admiral
 Silver-washed Fritillary
 Common Glider
 Great Banded Grayling

BIRDS (cont'd)

Pica pica
Corvus cornix
Corvus monedula
Corvus frugilegus
Corvus corax
Carduelis carduelis
Serinus serinus
Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Magpie
Hooded Crow
Jackdaw
Rook
Raven
Goldfinch
Serin
Hawfinch

Sturnus vulgaris
Oriolus oriolus
Passer montanus
Fringilla coelebs
Carduelis cannabina
Emberiza citrinella
Emberiza calandra
Emberiza cia

Starling
Golden Oriole
Tree Sparrow
Chaffinch
Linnet
Yellowhammer
Corn Bunting
Rock Bunting