

# **Hungary in Autumn**

**Sunday 19 – Sunday 26 October 2008**

## **Trip Report**

### **Leaders:**

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### **Introduction**

This tour has once again provided some very interesting new species in the form of Nutcracker, Two-Barred Crossbill and Red-breasted Goose. We are also blessed with some very good weather which helps us to see 129 species of bird during the week. A few highlights of note include: seeing White-tailed Eagle on 6 consecutive days, a magical spell of wildlife sightings in woodland near Hárómhuta on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Seeing 6 species of Woodpecker and hearing a 7<sup>th</sup> and the gentle presence of Common Cranes during the week.

### **DAILY DIARY**

#### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

We all get through to the check in desk at Gatwick before the majority of other passengers arrive and make our way to the departure lounge via security. Some of us then catch up on breakfast and before you know it our gate number is displayed on the boards. The flight is smooth and the sky very blue and just as we land some of us see our first bird of the trip, Common Buzzard. Budapest- Ferihegy airport is expanding rapidly, (code name - Sky Court) and should be fully complete in December 2009. We soon collect our luggage and then meet up with Atilla near the information desk. The luggage is loaded into the minibus & trailer and we drive a short distance before stopping to look at a Souselik colony, they do look cute but a little nervous. We also find Eurasian Magpie, Hooded Crow, Kestrel, Crested Lark and Starling before setting off onto the smart new roads heading east. After a while we stop to have drinks, a leg stretch and find some more birds including Jay and Tree Sparrow. Our next garage stop turns up some great birds with a pair of Eastern Imperial Eagle, Adult White-tailed Eagle, Tree Sparrow, Crested Lark, Linnet and Northern Wheatear. A little later we stop once more beside the road and this time find Saker Falcon, Sparrowhawk, Great Grey Shrike and then a Hawfinch flies overhead. Our last birding stop is at Tisza Lake and here we see Greylag Geese, Mute Swan, Mallard, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Eurasian Teal, Little & Great Crested Grebe, Great & Pygmy Cormorants before driving to our hotel. Other wildlife of note during the journey includes 80-100 Common Buzzard, good numbers of Caspian Gull and a colony of Short-tailed Field Voles.

#### **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

We depart straight after breakfast and head eastwards before turning south towards Nagyiván, we then stop abruptly as several Bearded Tits are flushed from the reeds. Reed Buntings fly out at high speed in all directions and prove a little elusive and difficult to pin down. The drive through the village is charming as the roads are lined by empty White Stork nests and then we stop to pick up our Ranger for the day. He takes us a few metres to show the group some very friendly Stone Curlew, 4 in total and then finds us our first Little Owl sitting on a rooftop, we also see a Great Grey Shrike perched. As we leave the village we then enter the Hortobágyi National Park and within minutes flush a Great Bittern which allows us to enjoy prolonged views before it flies into the waterway. The track is quite rough and progress is slow but we manage to disturb yet another Great Bittern and also observe Marsh Harrier hunting nearby. Roe Deer seem to be present in most of the surrounding fields and are quite unafraid as we drive slowly past and yes we flush our third Great Bittern. Several Eurasian Curlew are seen before we stop to scan the surrounding area, plenty of Common Buzzard and Hen Harrier drift around along with smaller numbers of Sparrowhawk. We then head off to re-enter the National Park at a different place and have our lunch. After our lunch with the company of hungry donkeys & dogs we do manage to see several Great White Egret feeding in fields along with a Corn Bunting close by but a Chiffchaff is 'heard only'. Then we drive to an area called the Angels House and after an off-road drive we stop to check out a Red-throated Pipit. We then walk towards the favoured area for Dotterel and find 8 of these tame waders and also see Golden & Grey Plovers nearby. Two White-tailed Eagles are flying in the distance but it is time to leave and we head back to Nagyiván. As we enter the village we see Little Owls perched in a tree and on the roof of a house. We say goodbye to the Ranger and re-trace our earlier drive to view the Cranes coming into roost. This turns out to be a great move as large numbers of Cranes start to arrive and we listen to the adults & young as they have different calls. Greater White-fronted Geese drop in and a male Hen Harrier flushes several Snipe from a wet area. Meanwhile we hear a Little Crake calling and manage to find 2 Water Rail feeding and finally see the Little Crake before the light fades. We head back to the hotel and enjoy another fine meal before getting some sleep.

## **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October**

Some members of the group see a woodpecker species near the hotel pre-breakfast but the sun is in the wrong place and it is impossible to identify it. We load the minibus and then set off after breakfast heading east once more and stop in the car park at the Hortobágy fishponds. We have an hour to wait before our train leaves so we start to walk to the nearest lake and begin to look for birds, several Penduline Tit fly over and vanish, then a Sparrowhawk flies from cover and a Kingfisher dashes past us. We all gather at an obvious viewpoint and start to scan for wildlife. Great Crested Grebe, Pintail, Wigeon, Coot, Shoveler, Gadwall, Teal and Greater White-fronted Geese are in good numbers. A Merlin flies over the lake and soon leaves the area, meanwhile Pygmy & Greater Cormorant fly overhead. We return to the car park area and manage to find a Goldcrest before we board the train and gently set off, the train is very good for flushing birds and it's not long before we see our first Fieldfare dashing out of the trees. The train reaches the end of the line and we start to walk a circuit. After many fleeting views of both Bearded and Penduline Tit we end up with stunning views and pictures of Penduline Tit and eventually find an old nest. We walk a little further and stop once more to check out a wetland area to find: at least 250 Great White Egret, 20 Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Eurasian Curlew, 50 Spotted Redshank, Little Stint, 50 Dunlin, 5 Ruff and see 2 soaring White-tailed Eagles. We continue to the hide and start our lunch. During lunch we find that the White-tailed Eagles have landed on an island and are then joined by 2 more. Great views are had of 33 Lesser White-fronted Geese

and a similar mix of waders but in much smaller numbers. Gulls provide us with a chance to get to know them better as a group of Caspian Gulls are joined by a single Yellow-legged Gull. We then continue our circuit and find Large Copper Butterfly, Grass Snake, Fire-bellied Toad and evidence of Otter before stopping to view the birds once more. Another magic moment has arrived in the shape of a Red-breasted Goose all the way from the Arctic Tundra and we all enjoy the moment. We then head back towards the train pick up point but not before checking out a bay in the reed-bed and here we find 3 Water Rail and a Little Crake, the light conditions are perfect unlike the view last night of this difficult to see species. We climb aboard the train and soon arrive back at the car park and then drive to a farm. As we enter the farm we find a Little Owl hiding behind a chimney pot and we park near a viewing platform, we all manage to make it up the steep steps and just wait to watch what happens. We don't have to wait too long before a White-tailed Eagle drifts past and then the sound of Cranes gets louder as group after group fly in towards their roosting areas. Greylag Geese seem to have a changing shift pattern as some groups are flying into the roost and some were flying out. Just as the sun is setting we leave and return to the hotel to enjoy another fine meal before getting some well earned sleep after our long but gentle walking day.

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

At last we connect with a Woodpecker in the form of a Great Spotted Woodpecker feeding on walnuts in a walnut tree as we emerge from our rooms prior to breakfast. The bird seems quite at ease and just carries on eating as we watch through the telescope. Just before we leave after our breakfast we find 7 Barn Swallows flying over the hotel and then we head for the fishpond area near the village of Elep. We leave the main road and stop along a track and find a Syrian Woodpecker on a dead tree but it flies away before we all see it. We do have good views of a lone Fieldfare and then we exit the minibus and start to walk. Tree Sparrow, Chaffinch, Brambling, Goldfinch, Greenfinch and Linnet are seen in quick succession and then we walk a little further before stopping to admire 2 male Black Woodpecker feeding close together. Three Mistle Thrush and a couple of Blackbirds settle in the trees near the Black Woodpeckers. We then manage to catch up with a Syrian Woodpecker but it does not stay long. We explore a piece of woodland and find a group of Long-tailed Tits which contain both *europaeus* and *caudatus* (white headed) forms. A few of the group manage to see Bearded Tit and also Little Owl. We start to walk back to the minibus and in the distance a Greater Spotted Eagle is seen to drop into the woodland, it is quickly located and we decide to drive around and hope to get closer views. We work hard to find the Eagle but with zero success, so we then return and re-trace our steps in case the bird has flown. As we emerge from the trees there is the Greater Spotted Eagle being harassed by a Raven. We follow the bird into the next field and watch its progress and also find 2 White-tailed Eagle soaring high above. Flushed with success we travel into Hortobágy Village and find 2 Long-eared Owls roosting and also to buy permits for the Fishpond areas and indulge in a little retail therapy. Our next stop is at Akadémiai fishpond and we find Ferruginous and Tufted Duck plus Common Pochard. We then move to Derzsi fishpond and see very good numbers of Greylag and Greater White-fronted Geese but little else. We enjoy hot drinks and look at a Coal Tit before exploring Gyökérkúti fishpond by walking along the bank to a raised platform where we have good views of Kingfishers dashing around and a distant perched Rough-legged Buzzard that does fly eventually. A male Hen Harrier and a Great Grey Shrike hunt the nearby fields but as the light is starting to fade so we begin our walk back. Just before we reach the minibus we hear and manage to see a stunning Firecrest which illuminates the fading foliage its hiding in. A quick drive to Fényes fishpond and we manage to see a Black-necked Grebe and plenty of Caspian & Black-headed Gulls before returning to the Hotel.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

After our breakfast we load up the minibus and trailer with our belongings, say goodbye to the wonderful staff and head off before stopping at the Hortobágy NP Western Gate to take a few pictures. As we walk along a track a bird is flushed and we hear the cry of 'Nutcracker' everyone arrives at once and we all enjoy this special moment. The bird starts to move away but it is not in any hurry and we follow its progress until it flies into woodland. What a start to the day! We also see Goldcrest and Wren before climbing back into the minibus. Our next stop is by the river crossing at Tiszacsege and here we explore the woodland for Treecreeper and other species but we find very little apart from Goldcrest, Tree Sparrow and Great Tit before moving on. We drive to the Darassa Steppe area and stop at a viewing tower from which we have a commanding view. Common Cranes are calling nearby and numerous Buzzards are drifting around, 3 Crested Lark are perched on the roof of a barn but no sign of our target species: Long-legged Buzzard. We decide to move on but stop once more as an adult White-tailed Eagle appears over the nearby woodland and a Long-legged Buzzard is found perched on top of a tree. We study both birds but the Buzzard flies out of view leaving us to concentrate on the Eagle, as it drifts across the road it is intercepted by a Common Buzzard which attacks the Eagle repeatedly. The Eagle then makes its escape and flies right past us and away. We continue our journey and drive to the town of Balmazújváros and park near the centre before walking to a Long-eared Owl roost. The number of birds present is quite staggering and we take our time to work out how many there could be, at least 60 in the main roost area but there is not enough time to check further areas and so we leave the birds in peace. The next stop is in Miskolc to look for some Crossbills and within minutes we have good views of at least 5 Common Crossbill before we walk a short distance to check another area nearby. We started the day with a rare species and we end the day with a rare species in the form of a stunning pair of Two-barred Crossbill. This pair seemed quite relaxed and every one has good views and is able to study these birds at length. What an end to the day! We arrive at the Hotel Bodrog in Sároszombat and settle into our rooms before meeting up for the main meal of the day and then retire for some rest after all this excitement.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October**

We head off promptly after breakfast using minor roads to avoid delays due to road works and find we have to stop to admire 2 Hawfinch. Then a short drive and this time we stop to look at a Little Owl perched on an old building. A short distance and we stop once more beside the road this time to study a group of 5 Common Crossbill. We spend more time at our next stop and begin to scan the Bodrog Marshes to find an Eagle species perched but this disappears before it is identified (Probable Greater Spotted Eagle). A Common Buzzard is seen and a perched adult White-tailed Eagle located over the far side of the marsh. An immature White-tailed Eagle drifts behind the adult and drops out of sight. We then travel to a nearby village and find a single White Stork standing on a nest and we manage to get a few pictures of it before we leave. Our next drive takes us to the impressive Castle Boldogk\_ váralja but find it is very busy with people everywhere, so our chances of finding any unusual birds is limited and we only find a Black Redstart and a sizeable flock of Linnets. Most of us have a taste of a sweet pastry that is handmade while you wait and highly recommended by those that try it! Our lunch beckons and so we drive to Háromhuta to have lunch, seeing a Merlin en-route and eat the tastiest bean goulash you can imagine. We walk

into the woodland and the birding now takes off as we get caught up in an exciting series of bird sightings. An adult pair of Golden Eagle plus a Sub-adult fly low overhead in the space of about 3 minutes, good scope views of White-backed Woodpecker and a flyover Black Woodpecker. The supporting cast include some of our first sightings of Marsh Tit, Eurasian Treecreeper, Siskin and Song Thrush. As the light starts to fade we begin to walk back but stop to photograph an impressive Fire Salamander. Then we travel back to the hotel and enjoy another good meal before catching up on some sleep.

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October**

We leave the hotel after breakfast and drive straight to a nearby quarry and park. As we walk into the quarry we see numerous Blackbirds feeding on berries. As we near the end of the quarry we locate an Eagle Owl, ear tufts erect, crouched down on a ledge. We all enjoy excellent telescope views and then leave the bird in peace. As we head back to the minibus we see a good mix of species including Marsh, Blue, Great and Long-tailed Tit. Just as we get back to the minibus an adult female Goshawk hunts along the field margin and disappears but then comes back seconds later only to vanish again behind a tree. We also see Great Grey Shrike hunting from the power lines. Our next stop is near Erd\_bénye to briefly look at Yellowhammers and then we move to the car park and walk in the forest but do not find much apart from numerous Nuthatch but on our return journey things get very different. Most of the activity seems to be in a small part of the woodland and we see Middle Spotted, Great Spotted and White-Backed Woodpecker. Overhead Bullfinch, Hawfinch and Common Crossbill call as they pass by. Just as we are about to leave the woods we get good views of a male Bullfinch. We then travel back to Erd\_bénye and enjoy some lunch followed by a little retail visit. Meanwhile some of us are looking at some close woodpecker sightings including a Great Spotted Woodpecker being chased out of a tree by a Syrian Woodpecker. The church close by seems to be home to at least 10 Black Redstarts. All of us then move to the pasture just outside Erd\_bénye and start to look for birds. We see several Jay, Fieldfare, Hawfinch, Mistle Thrush and single Middle Spotted and Great Spotted Woodpecker. Another Goshawk appears and starts to soar above us, this time it is an immature bird. We now move to Baskó and find the place alive with Fieldfare but with fewer numbers of Redwing, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer. A Green Woodpecker is heard in the distance but we do see Black and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Common Buzzard and 2 Raven. We move on to look at an area near Sima in the hope of finding Ural Owl but all we manage to do is hear 2 Dunnock calling and see a Robin. We return to the Baskó site to look for the owl but find the light is fading fast so we drive back to the hotel. After our meal we discuss the plan for our last day and the implications of the clocks being changed in the UK and decide to deal with this in the morning when it should have sorted itself out!

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

We start the day at the normal time and after breakfast begin to load up the minibus and trailer with our luggage and supplies. Just as we do this a flock of 7 Common Crossbill fly overhead then we leave Sárospatak and drive southwest. We encounter a good mix of birds as we travel although some areas appear to be better than others. Species of note include: Common Buzzard, Great Grey Shrike, Black Redstart, Caspian Gull & Great White Egret. As we reach Mez\_k\_veds we turn off and head towards Bogács. As we approach a road junction and slow down a very close Black Woodpecker flies across the front of the minibus. We continue driving through minor villages and turn off along a rough track and park in the Hór

Valley and start to explore. A short walk takes us up a gentle slope which ends at a great vantage point with a good view of the valley. One of our targets, Rock Bunting, seems to be having Sunday off with no sign of this attractive little bird. However we have ample compensation as we hear and then see both Grey-headed and Black Woodpecker in quick succession. As we walk back to the minibus we catch up on numerous squeaking Goldcrest and glimpse the odd Robin before getting back into the minibus and head for lunch at Noszvaj. We are a little early for lunch so we have a gentle walk around the hotel area and gather back at mid-day. All of us (but not the driver) try a small glass of a 50% alcohol liqueur and then we all bravely cope with 2 bowls of fantastic soup followed by a very welcome Strudel. We return to the vehicle and head for the motorway and drive straight to the airport and say goodbye to Attila before checking in and once past security relax before flying back to London Gatwick. Our luggage appears and so we say our goodbyes and go our separate ways.

## SPECIES LISTS

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*. Recorded most days, mostly males.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*. Good numbers seen on 5 days.

Greater White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*. Seen on 5 days, max count of 100 on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*. Thirty-three seen on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Red-breasted Goose *Branta ruficollis*. Superb find at the Hortobágy Fishponds on 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*. A pair on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 5 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*. Good numbers seen on fishponds on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*. Good numbers seen on fishponds on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. Recorded on 5 days in good numbers.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*. Only seen on 3 days.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*. At least 40 seen on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hortobágy fishponds.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*. Recorded on 4 days.

Common Pochard *Netta rufina*. Only seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> on fishpond.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*. Recorded on fishpond on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*. A few seen on fishpond on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*. Small numbers on 2 days, up to 10 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*. Small numbers on 2 days, up to 10 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*. Single on fishpond on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*. One standing on a nest in a village on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*. Three in the open on 20<sup>th</sup> & singles on two days.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*. Recorded on 6 days, max count of 80 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Great White Egret *Egretta alba*. Recorded on 5 days, max count of 250 on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*. Seen on 3 days on fishponds or flying overhead.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*. Observed on 5 days during the week.

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*. Seen in small numbers during the first 5 days.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*. Singles on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*. Single bird perched on a pylon on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*. Seen on 6 days, max count of 5 on the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

(Western) Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*. 10 on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> fewer on 2 other days.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*. Recorded on 4 days with a max of 14 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*. Seen almost daily with a max of 8 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. Adult \_ and Immature on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*. Up to 100 on the 19<sup>th</sup>, common and widespread.

Long-legged Buzzard *Buteo rufinus*. Single at the Darassa area on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*. Immature bird near fishpond on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Greater Spotted Eagle *Aquila clanga*. Great views of an adult near Elep on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*. A pair sitting on pylons on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. A pair plus a sub-adult at Háromhuta on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*. At least 7 possibly 10 feeding in fields on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*. Seen and/ or heard on 3 days.

Little Crake *Porzana porzana*. Poor view of 1 on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Great view of one on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra*. Recorded on only three days during the week.

Common Crane *Grus grus*. Seen on 4 days in thousands.

Eurasian Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus*. Close views of 4 at Nagyiván on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*. Seen in small numbers on 4 days.

European Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*. 12 seen at the Angels House area on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Grey/Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*. 2 seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 20 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

(Eurasian) Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*. 8 seen at the Angels House area on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*. At least 10 seen near Nagyiván on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. One at Hortobágy fishponds on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*. Recorded on 4 days with a max of 30 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*. Up to 50 seen at Hortobágy fishponds on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*. At least 2 at Hortobágy fishponds on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*. At least 50 seen at Hortobágy fishponds on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*. Six recorded at Hortobágy fishponds on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Common/Mew Gull *Larus canus*. Only two recorded during the week.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*. Single at Hortobágy fishponds on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Caspian Gull *Larus cachinnans*. Recorded most days sometimes in high numbers.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*. Seen on 3 days with good numbers on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*. Recorded on two days in small numbers.

(Common) Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*. Only two birds observed on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Eurasian Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo*. Single bird found roosting in a quarry on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*. Singles on 3 days and 5 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*. 2 in Hortobágy village & 60 in Balmazújváros on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*. Single on 21<sup>st</sup> & 4 seen on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at fishponds.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*. Two observed on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

White-backed Woodpecker *Dendrocopos leucotos*. \_ on 24<sup>th</sup> & \_ on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*. One on 22<sup>nd</sup> & 2 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*. Seen on 3 days, max count 6 on 25<sup>th</sup>.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*. 2\_ on 22<sup>nd</sup>, singles on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> and two on 26<sup>th</sup>.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*. One heard only on the 25<sup>th</sup> at Baskó.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*. One \_ seen in the Hór Valley on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*. Seen daily in small numbers, max of 6 on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*. Recorded on four days with a max of 10 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*. A surprise at Hortobágy NP Western Gate on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*. Ten on the 20<sup>th</sup>, perhaps under recorded.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Hooded Crow *Corvus corone cornix*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*. Small numbers seen on 4 days only.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*. At least 6 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, small numbers on two days.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*. Heard only on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*. Recorded on 5 days with a max of 4 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Great Tit *Parus major*. Common & widespread, seen most days.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*. Common & widespread, seen most days.

Eurasian Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*. Great views on the 21<sup>st</sup>, heard only on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*. Seen on 3 days with at least 30 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*. Recorded on 4 days with a max of 7 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*. Three seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> and 1 on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*. Heard only on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*. Good numbers observed on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*. Recorded on most days in good numbers in suitable habitat.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*. Great views of a single bird near fishponds on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Winter Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*. Small numbers seen on most days.

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*. One seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> and good numbers on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Eurasian Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*. Three on the 24<sup>th</sup> and heard only on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Common Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*. Seen in small numbers on 4 days, 10+ on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*. Seen in small numbers on 3 days, 100's on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*. Up to three seen on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*. Two seen on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. Small numbers on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> with 20+ on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*. Observed in small numbers on 5 days.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Small numbers on 6 days, max of 10 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*. Two seen en-route on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Common Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*. Small numbers on 2 days and 10 on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Dunnock/Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis*. Two heard at Sima on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba*. Recorded on the 19 & 21<sup>st</sup> only.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*. 7 on the 22<sup>nd</sup> & 3 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> at Hotel Nadas Panzio.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*. Single heard only on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*. Small flocks seen on 4 days.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*. Single seen on the 20<sup>th</sup> & heard only on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*. Small numbers seen on most days.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*. Small numbers seen on two days.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*. Small numbers seen or heard on 5 days.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*. Heard on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4 seen on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 2 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*. Common & widespread, seen on most days.

Common/Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*. Seen on 4 days with a max of 30 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Two-barred Crossbill *Loxia leucoptera*. Great views of a pair on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*. Heard only on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 10+ seen on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*. Seen on 5 days, max of 20 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*. Recorded on 4 days in reasonable numbers.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*. 2 on the 21<sup>st</sup>, good numbers on the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*. Seen on 3 days in good numbers.

## MAMMALS

Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*. Single at Noszvaj on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*. Common & widespread, seen daily.

European Sousek *Spermophilus citellus*. Seen near the airport on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Brown Hare *Lepus europaeus*. Three on the 20<sup>th</sup> & 1 on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Striped Field Mouse *Apodemus agrarius*. One seen on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

Eurasian Otter *Lutra lutra*. Evidence on the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Beech Marten *Martes foina*. Scats found on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

House Mouse *Mus musculus*. One being eaten by a cat on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Stoat *Mustela erminea*. Single on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*. Evidence seen on two or three days.

Mole *Talpa europaea*. Molehills found at Hotel Nadas Panzio.

Shrew sp. One running across the road on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Short-tailed Field Vole *Microtus agrestis*. Several colonies found, active during the day.

## REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Edible Frog *Rana esculenta/lessonae*

Moor Frog *Rana arvalis*

Fire Salamander *Salamandra salamandra*

Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina*

Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

## BUTTERFLIES

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*

Pale Clouded Yellow *Colias hyale*

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Comma *Polygonia c-album*

Blue sp

Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

## DRAGONFLIES

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

## OTHER WILDLIFE

Moth (Found inside minibus)