

Austria in Spring

Saturday 16 – Saturday 23 May 2009

Tour Report

Leaders:

Stephen Daly

John Muddeman

Austria is traditionally thought of as a country of mountain and forests, but tucked away in the south east is one of Europe's jewels, rich in a wide diversity of natural history.

Our birding and wildlife holiday in the Spring of 2009 was centred in the lakeside town of Neuseidl-am-See in Burgenland. Here between the Alps and the Hungarian *Puszta* lies a unique landscape on the western side of the Little Hungarian Plain - the *Kisalföld*. The National Park of Seewinkel in Austria and the *Fertő – Hanság*, the Hungarian National Park contain a mosaic of salt-marsh, wet pasture, grazing meadows and a huge belted reed-bed that encompasses the 320 km² Lake Neusiedl. The lake has an average depth of 1.5m and to the south and to the east lies the *Hanság*, a former fen, now covered by woodlands and wet meadows.

The whole area is an important breeding ground for European avian life as well as providing rich feeding for migratory birds that pass through central Europe. Special projects to preserve ancient domestic livestock are being carried out in various locations and throughout the landscape one can come across Hungarian Grey Cattle, Mangalitza Pigs, White Donkeys, Water Buffaloes and the sturdy Przewalski Horses.

We spent eight days in the area and took in some of the best birding sites around Lake Neusiedl, the lower Austrian Alps and the riverine ancient forests on the river March.

Our early morning walks proved very profitable with great views of Moustached Warbler, Bluethroat, Marsh Warbler, and Common Cuckoo. Penduline Tit and Bearded Reedling were also present with Great Reed and Reed Warbler. River Warbler was heard at our visit to Marchegg, which is a special place and holds the largest White Stork colony in Austria. Collared Flycatcher, Wood Warbler, Garden Warbler and Eurasian Nuthatch were also recorded here as well as many different dragonflies, darters and woodland butterflies. Middle Spotted, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers all showed themselves here as well.

The weather during our holiday was mostly warm with clear blue skies and light breezes although a dull day greeted us at Vienna airport. The rest of the week was just fabulous with only a few clouds and cooler temperatures high on top of the Schneeberg mountain. At 823m in height this was to be expected and although Alpine Accentor proved impossible to find, we were rewarded with fine views of Water Pipit, Alpine Chough, Common Redpoll, Ring Ouzel and the Chamois that roam along the Eastern Alpine chain.

Bee-eaters were seen at a nearby colony and their rich colours lit up the sheer sandy face of their nest site. Some spectacular views were had there with Turtle Dove and Golden Orioles calling from the tree-line.

The wetland areas of course didn't disappoint either and the hundreds of Greylag Geese with long lines of goslings were a constant sight. Breeding Avocets and Kentish Plovers could be seen with ease and in the background Common Shelduck fed with Garganey, Gadwall, Mallard, Northern Shoveler and numerous Common Pochard and the lovely and abundant Red-crested Pochard, as well as many other wetland birds.

Hobbies were fairly common and the Common Kestrel and Marsh Harrier were the most prolific of the raptors. Common Buzzards regularly came drifting over our heads and we also had distant views of White-tailed and Imperial Eagle close to the Einser Kanal and a high flying Montagu's Harrier on the edge of the Lange Lacke.

On the slopes leading to the Hohe Wand and again on the forested rolling hillsides, Honey Buzzards were also seen, some in their spectacular ‘butterfly’ display flight. We also watched a male Peregrine Falcon carry a pigeon back to its nest where the calling female waited to feed their hungry chicks. This wonderful cliff-face also gave us views of Nutcracker, Crag Martin, Firecrest and other woodland passerines. Views from the top of the Hohe Wand are spectacular and we were fortunate to watch a passing juvenile Black Stork.

Great Bustards can still be found close to the Hungarian border, where we enjoyed watching a large group in the hot morning sun. We were treated to some displaying males turning themselves ‘inside out’ which was a real bonus! The area also contains the noisy but rather lovely Barred Warbler, another summer migrant. Icterine Warblers didn’t seem to be in the area and it wasn’t until the second to last day that we caught up with this other noisy species! Some special butterflies, flying iridescent beetles as well as damselflies, darters and dragonflies put on a riverside show over the famous wooden bridge at Andau on the Hungarian Border.

We ate out at local Gasthoffs or small restaurants during the day and even took traditional fare in the log cabin up on the Schneeberg – a most satisfying traditional meal on the mountainside.

On the wet grazing lands we watched Garganey, Wood Sandpiper, Eurasian Curlew, Black winged Stilt and Great Egrets. One very strange looking distant bird which was thought to be a Temminck’s Stint, was then reported a few days later as a N. American Baird’s Sandpiper! Stephen and John returned to the site after the group had left for home to witness the bird feeding with other waders close to the Neusiedl Biological Centre.

On quite a few occasions during the week we heard the loud ‘booming’ from Great Bittern coming from within the huge reed-beds and in front we watched Common, Whiskered and the truly elegant Black Terns feed on the open water. We also saw the rarer White-winged Terns as well, as well as views of colourful Ruddy Turnstone and had a real ‘Austrian Rarity’ in the form of two Oystercatchers on their stop-over on one of the small salt-lakes.

Eurasian Spoonbills were seen around several lakeside sites with regular flypasts of Purple Heron and some Pygmy Cormorants. One Little Bittern was seen, as was a single and rare Lesser Grey Shrike. On the other hand, Red-backed Shrike was seen most days on the tour. The rich farmland, particularly the acres of vineyards along the Seewinkel basin had good breeding numbers of these charming birds.

Common Wall Lizards were seen on the mountain slopes away from the lakeside as were several Grass Snakes around the ponds and lakeside. Fire-bellied Toads were heard ‘booping’ along some of the lakes tracks. European Tree Frog was a particularly ‘cute’ individual and gained much attention, particularly amongst the groups photographers.

A list of all the species recorded during our visit can be seen below.

All in all this was a great week of bird watching and nature appreciation with great weather, in one of the most pleasant central European destinations. Stephen and John would like to thank you all for being such appreciative guests and your company, humour and fun won’t be forgotten. Until the next time!

BIRDS - AVES

Pheasant, Grouse & Partridges - Phasianidae

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

1 en route on 21st is our only record.

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Noted widely and daily at numerous sites.

Ducks, Geese & Swans - Anatidae

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Noted on 6 days, including 100+ various sites on 16th, and lots various sites on 19th and 22nd.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Noted widely and daily in small to moderate number, except on 20th.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

1 Hölle Pool on 16th, plenty Oberstinkersee+ on 19th, several Austria & 27 Fertöd pool on 22nd and several Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

A pair Hölle Pool on 16th, a pair Einser Kanal on 17th, 15-20 various sites on 19th, a few various sites on 22nd, and a few Podersdorf on 23rd.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Noted daily and widely in good number at numerous sites.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

A male Podersdorf on 16th, 15+ various sites on 19th, several various sites on 22nd, and a few Podersdorf on 23rd.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

A pair Hölle Pool on 16th, 10+ Zicklacke & Sandeck track on 19th, 6+ various sites on 22nd, and 7-8 Podersdorf on 23rd.

Common Teal *Anas crecca*

A male Podersdorf on 16th and 1 Warmblüterkoppel on 19th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

20+ Sandeck track on 18th, lots various sites on 19th, lots various sites on 22nd, and 35+ Podersdorf on 23rd.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

About 30 Sandeck track on 18th, 8+ Sandeck track on 19th, 5-6 Hohenau on 21st, several various sites on 22nd, and 1 male Podersdorf on 23rd.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

A pair & 1 male Einser Kanal on 17th, 2 Illmitz marina road & 2 Sandeck track on 19th, 1 there on 22nd, and 3 Podersdorf on 23rd.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

55+ Sandeck track on 18th is our only record.

Grebes - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

8+ Einser Kanal on 17th, heard Sandeck track on 18th, 8 Oberstinkersee+ on 19th, and c. 10 Hohenau on 21st.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

4 Podersdorf on 16th, 4 Sandeck track on 18th, 10 various sites on 19th, 4 pair Hohenau on 21st, and a few Podersdorf on 23rd.

Storks - Ciconiidae

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

Noted on 6 days : 1 Einser Kanal on 17th, 1 immature Hohe Wand on 18th, 1 Neusiedl am See on 19th, 1 Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th, c. 15 various sites on 21st, and 2 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

European White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

Noted widely and daily near the lake in small number, plus plenty Marchegg.

Ibises & Spoonbills - Threskiornithidae

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

10+ Illmitz marina road+ on 19th, 2 Neusiedl am See on 21st, a few various sites on 22nd and 2 Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Hérons & Allies - Ardeidae

Eurasian Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Heard Illmitz marina road on 19th and heard Sandeck track on 22nd.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

1 male Neusiedl am See on 18th is our only record.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Noted widely and daily in small number.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

An adult Neusiedl am See on 18th and 3-4 Illmitz marina road on 19th.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Noted widely and daily around the lake, including 30+ various sites on 19th, and plenty various sites on 22nd.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

1 Sandeck track on 19th, 2 Fertöd pool & 2+ Sandeck track on 22nd, and 2 Podersdorf on 23rd.

Cormorants - Phalacrocoracidae

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

1 adult Illmitz marina road on 19th, 4+ Sandeck track on 22nd.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

3-4 Einser Kanal on 17th, 3 Illmitz marina road on 19th, 1 Marchegg & 1 Hohenau on 21st, and 1 Fertöd pool & 2 Sandeck track on 22nd.

Falcons & Caracaras - Falconidae

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Remarkably common. Noted widely and daily in moderate to large number.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

A pair en route on 17th, 2 Illmitz marina road on 19th, 1 Schneeberg on 20th.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

A pair & 2 chicks Hohe Wand on 18th, and 1 Fertöd pool on 22nd.

Hawks, Eagles & Allies - Accipitridae

European Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

1 Andau on 17th, 6-8 Hohe Wand on 18th, 2+ Illmitz marina road+ on 19th, 2 Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th, and c. 10 Marchegg+ on 21st.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

1 Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

Black Kite *Milvus migrans*

5-6 Marchegg+ on 21st is our only record.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Single adults Einser Kanal on 17th and Hohenau on 21st.

Western Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Noted widely and commonly daily, especially around the lake.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

1 immature male Lange Lacke on 22nd is our only record.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Noted widely and daily in small to moderate number.

Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*

1 sub-adult Einser Kanal on 17th is our only record.

Bustards - Otidae

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*

11-13 Andau plain on 17th is our only record.

Rails & Crakes - Rallidae

European Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

1 Warmblüterkoppel on 19th is our only record.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

A few Einser Kanal on 17th, and 6 Sandeck track on 18th.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

Noted commonly and widely around the lakes; seen daily except on 20th.

Oystercatchers - Haematopodidae

Eurasian Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

2 Warmblüterkoppel on 19th is our only record.

Stilts & Avocets - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

30+ various sites on 19th, lots Sandeck track on 22nd, plenty Podersdorf & Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

4 Podersdorf & 6+ Hölle Pool on 16th, 40+ various sites on 19th, lots various sites on 22nd, and plenty Podersdorf & Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Plovers - Charadriidae

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Noted daily and widely in good number.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

3 Warmblüterkoppel on 19th, 1 adult Fertöd pool on 22nd, 1 adult Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

11 Oberstinkersee on 23rd is our only record.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Plenty Podersdorf & 1 Hölle Pool on 16th, 15+ various sites on 19th, 1 juvenile Hohenau on 21st, 3 Lange Lacke on 22nd, and several, including tiny chicks, Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

2 pairs Hölle Pool on 16th, 6 Zicklacke & 12+ Oberstinkersee on 19th, 17 Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Sandpipers & Allies - Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

1 Sandeck track on 22nd is our only record.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

4 Podersdorf on 16th, 20+ various sites on 19th, 35+ various sites on 22nd, plenty Podersdorf & Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

2 Andau plain on 17th, c.10 various sites on 19th, and plenty in both Austria & Hungary on 22nd.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

5+ Podersdorf on 16th, lots various sites on 19th, plenty Sandeck track+ on 22nd, lots Podersdorf & Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

2 Podersdorf on 23rd is our only record.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

2 Oberstinkersee on 19th is our only record.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Singles Podersdorf on 16th, Oberstinkersee on 19th, and Hohenau on 21st.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

2 Oberstinkersee on 23rd is our only record.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

2 Zicklacke on 19th is our only record.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

Remarkably, just hours after the group leaving, a Baird's Sandpiper was discovered near Illmitz. John and Stephen were taken to see the bird and we realised that it was in fact almost certainly the odd-looking Temminck's Stint-like bird we saw all-too-briefly along the Sandeck track on 19th!

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

1 Oberstinkersee on 23rd is our only record.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

17 Sandeck track on 19th, and 1 male Sandeck track on 22nd.

Gulls & Terns - Laridae

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Several Podersdorf on 16th is our only record.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*

Plenty Podersdorf on 16th, plenty various sites on 19th, plenty various sites on 21st, plenty Sandeck track+ on 22nd, and lots Podersdorf on 23rd.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Noted commonly and widely, daily at numerous sites.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephala*

3 Fertöd pool on 22nd is our only record.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

3 immatures Sandeck track on 19th, and 1 there on 22nd.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

25+ Sandeck track on 19th and 2 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

6+ Sandeck track & Podersdorf on 19th, 1 Hohenau on 21st, and 2 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

2 Sandeck track on 22nd is our only record.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

3 Podersdorf on 16th, 6+ various sites on 19th, 2 Hohenau on 21st, 2-3 various sites on 22nd, and 3 Podersdorf on 23rd.

Pigeons & Doves - Columbidae

Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Feral pigeons noted commonly and widely, daily, at numerous sites.

Common Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*

Also common and widespread and seen in small number at various sites.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Small to moderate numbers noted daily at various sites, including one building a nest Podersdorf on 23rd.

Eurasian Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Noted commonly and widely, daily, at numerous sites.

Cuckoos - Cuculidae

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Common and widespread, noted daily except on 20th, with max. 5-6 seen & others heard various on 18th.

Swifts - Apodidae

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Common, widespread and noted daily, especially over towns and villages.

Bee-eaters - Meropidae

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*

50+ Weiden am See on 17th, 1 en route on 21st, 4 en route on 23rd.

Hoopoes - Upupidae

Common Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

4+ Podersdorf on 16th, 1 en route on 19th, heard Sandeck track on 22nd, 2 Podersdorf on 23rd.

Woodpeckers - Picidae

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*

1 seen and others heard Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

1 en route on 16th, 2+ various sites on 17th, 1 Neusiedl am See on 18th, 1 Neusiedl am See on 20th, several Marchegg on 21st, 1 & nest Fertöd pool on 22nd.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*

1 flying over Danube en route on 21st is our only record.

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Heard Hohe Wand on 18th and heard Marchegg on 21st.

Shrikes - Laniidae

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

A pair Hölle Pool & 1 male en route on 16th, lots Andau plain on 17th, several various sites on 18th, a few various sites on 19th, a few en route on 20th, several various sites on 22nd, 1-2 en route on 23rd.

Lesser Grey Shrike *Lanius minor*

1 Sandeck track on 22nd is our only record.

Orioles & Figbirds - Oriolidae

Eurasian Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Common, widespread and seen and/or heard daily at various sites, max. 6 seen & lots heard on 17th.

Crows, Jays & Magpies - Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

4 various sites on 18th, 1 en route on 20th, and 1 en route Hungary on 22nd.

Common Magpie *Pica pica*

Widespread and noted daily, except on 20th, in small number.

Eurasian Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

3 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Eurasian Jackdaw *Coloeus monedula*

Widespread and noted daily, except on 20th, in small - moderate number.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Widespread and noted daily, except on 16th and 17th, in small - moderate number.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*

Noted daily in small to moderate number, except on 16th, 17th and 22nd, with odd birds in this overlap population with hooded crow.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*

Seen common and widely daily.

Common Raven *Corvus corax*

2 pairs Hohe Wand on 18th, 4+ Schneeberg on 20th and 2 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Tits - Paridae

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*

2 seen & others heard Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Coal Tit *Periparus ater*

5+ Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Widespread in small number and seen and/or heard on 6 days, including a family party at Marchegg on 21st.

Eurasian Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*

3+ Sandeck track on 18th, 2 Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th and plenty Marchegg on 21st.

Penduline-tits - Remizidae

Eurasian Penduline-tit *Remiz pendulinus*

1 Neusiedl am See on 18th, 3 there on 21st and a few there again on 22nd.

Swallows & Martins - Hirundinidae

Common Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

200+ Podersdorf on 16th, a few Neusiedl am See on 18th, lots en route on 19th, plenty Hohenau on 21st, and plenty Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*

4+ Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Quite common, widespread and noted in small - moderate number daily.

Northern House Martin *Delichon urbicum*

Common, widespread and noted in moderate – large number daily.

Long-tailed Tits - Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

1 white-headed bird Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

Larks - Alaudidae

Crested Lark *Galerida cristata*

2 Sandeck track on 19th and 1 near Apetlon on 22nd.

Eurasian Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common, widespread and noted daily except on 20th.

Old World Warblers - Sylviidae

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

1 Podersdorf on 16th is our only record.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

Two heard singing Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

3 heard Neusiedl am See on 18th, 1 seen Sandeck track on 19th, and 2 heard there on 22nd.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Common, widespread and noisy! Noted daily in reedbeds except on 20th.

Moustached Warbler *Acrocephalus melanopogon*

Singles Neusiedl am See on 21st and 22nd.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Common and widespread around the lakes, and noted on 5 days at plenty of sites.

Eurasian Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Also quite common and widespread around the lakes and also noted on 5 days.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

1 Andau plain on 17th, 1 Neusiedl am See on 18th, a few various sites on 21st and several Neusiedl am See on 22nd.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

These appeared to arrive during the week, with 2 heard Marchegg on 21st, 1 seen and others heard Lange Lacke on 22nd and heard Neusiedl am See on 23rd.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Singles Einser Kanal on 17th, Neusiedl am See on 18th and Schneeberg on 20th, and 2 heard Marchegg on 21st.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

1 Podersdorf on 16th, 3-4 heard Hohe Wand+ on 18th and 2 heard Marchegg on 21st.

Western Bonelli's Warbler *Phylloscopus bonelli*

4+ heard Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Heard Hohe Wand on 18th and 1 seen Marchegg on 21st.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common, widespread and heard almost daily, and a few seen at various sites.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Only 1 heard at Marchegg on 21st.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*

1 male & 1 female Hölle Pool on 16th, 6+ Andau plain on 17th and 1 Podersdorf on 23rd.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

2 Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th and 1 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

2 Podersdorf on 16th and 1 Sandeck track on 18th.

Babblers and allies - Timaliidae

Bearded Reedling *Panurus biarmicus*

3 males Neusiedl am See on 21st and heard there on 22nd.

Kinglets - Regulidae

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

1 seen & another heard Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Wrens - Troglodytidae

Northern Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

1 Neusiedl am See on 19th and 1 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Nuthatches - Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th but plenty Marchegg on 21st.

Starlings - Sturnidae

European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant, widespread and noted daily, including fledged young.

Thrushes - Turdidae

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

4 males & 2 others heard Schneeberg on 20th is our only record.

Eurasian Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Common, widespread and noted daily in small – moderate number.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

1 collecting food Warmblüterkoppel on 19th was a great record.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

Common, widespread and seen and/or heard daily except on 20th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

3 seen & others heard Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Chats & Old World Flycatchers - Muscicapidae

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

1 seen & several heard various sites on 18th, 1 Illmitz on 19th, 1 en route on 20th, heard Marchegg on 21st.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Common, widespread and heard daily except on 20th, at various site, plus one or two were also seen.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

1 male Neusiedl am See on 21st and 2-3 there on 22nd.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Common, widespread and noted daily at numerous sites.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

5+ Andau plain on 17th and 1 en route on 20th.

European Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*

5+ Podersdorf & Hölle Pool on 16th, 15+ Andau plain on 17th, 3+ Hohenau on 21st.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

1 female Andau plain on 17th is our only record.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

2 Podersdorf on 16th, 2 Andau plain on 17th, 1 Neusiedl am See on 19th, 1 Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th and 1 Marchegg on 21st.

Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*

1 male seen & another male heard Marchegg on 21st.

Sparrows, Snowfinches & allies - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Common, widespread and noted daily around towns and villages.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Very common, widespread and noted daily at numerous, mainly rural sites.

Accentors - Prunellidae

Dunnock *Prunella modularis*

12+ Schneeberg on 20th is our only record.

Wagtails & Pipits - Motacillidae

Yellow [Blue-headed] Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava*

Lots Andau plain on 17th, a few on 19th, lots Lange Lacke on 22nd, and several Podersdorf on 23rd.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

1 Neusiedl am See on 18th is our only record.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

Common, widespread and noted daily at numerous sites.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

10+ Schneeberg on 20th is our only record.

Finches & Hawaiian Honeycreepers - Fringillidae

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Quite common and widespread, and noted in generally small number on 6 days.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Common, widespread and noted in small – moderate number daily.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Common, widespread and noted in small – moderate number daily.

Eurasian Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

3 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Common, widespread and noted in generally moderate number daily.

Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*

10+ Schneeberg on 20th is our only record.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

Quite common and widespread, and noted in small number almost daily.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

2 Sandeck track on 19th is our only record.

Buntings, American Sparrows and allies - Emberizidae

Corn Bunting *Emberiza calandra*

1 Podersdorf on 16th, several including singing males various sites on 17th, a few Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

2 Hohe Wand on 18th and heard Marchegg on 21st.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Common, widespread and seen well in the reedbeds on 7 days.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

Rabbits & Hares - Leporidae

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

1 Weiden am See on 17th, 1 Sandeck track on 18th and several various sites on 19th.

European Hare *Lepus europaeus*

Remarkably common and noted in moderate- large number on 7 days at numerous sites.

Squirrels - Sciuridae

European Suslik *Spermophilus citellus*

Plenty Spitzberg flugplatz on 21st is our only record.

Weasels & Allies - Mustelidae

Stoat *Mustela erminea*

1 dead Neusiedl am See on 21st, but 2 live ones Sandeck track on 22nd.

Moonrats & Hedgehogs - Erinaceidae

Western Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*

1 corpse en route on 18th is our only record.

Shrew-moles, Moles & Desmans - Talpidae

European Mole *Talpa europaea*

1 corpse en route on 22nd is our only record.

Deer - Cervidae

Red Deer *Cervus elaphus*

1 Fertöd pool on 22nd is our only record.

Western Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

1 en route on 16th, 1 en route on 18th, 1 Zicklacke on 19th, 1 en route on 21st, 4 Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Cattle, Antelope, Sheep & Goats - Bovidae

Chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th and 8+ Schneeberg on 20th.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina*

Heard Sandeck track on 19th and 22nd, and heard Neusiedl am See on 21st.

European Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*

Heard Hölle Pool on 16th, plenty seen various sites on 19th, and heard Fertöd pool on 22nd.

Common Marsh Frog *Pelophylax ridibundus*

1 seen & others heard Einser Kanal on 17th, plenty heard Sandeck track on 18th, heard various sites on 19th, and a few Marchegg on 21st.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

Common Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*

Several Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

Singles Sandeck track on 19th and being chased by a hooded crow at Oberstinkersee on 23rd.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

APOLLOS & SWALLOWTAILS - Papilionidae

Scarce Swallowtail *Iphiclides podalirius*

1 Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th is our only record.

Clouded Apollo *Parnassius mnemosyne*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS - Pieridae

Large White *Pieris brassicae*

At least 1 Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

Small White *Artogeia rapae*

Noted at Hohe Wand on 18th and Schneeberg on 20th.

Green-veined White *Artogeia napi*

Noted at Hohe Wand on 18th and Schneeberg on 20th.

Bath White *Pontia daplidice*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*

Noted at Hohe Wand on 18th, Schneeberg on 20th, and plenty on 21st.

Pale / Berger's Clouded Yellow *Colias hyale / alfacariensis*

Various individuals of one of these two very similar species at Hohe Wand on 18th and Schneeberg on 20th.

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*

2+ Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Wood White *Leptidea sinapis*

Several Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES - Lycaenidae

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*

One noted on 17th and 1+ on 18th.

Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*

Singles Andau plain on 17th, Illmitz marina road on 19th and Marchegg on 21st.

Sooty Copper *Lycaena tityrus*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Little Blue *Cupido minimus*

Several Hohe Wand on 18th and a few Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus*

A rather worn individual Lange Lacke on 22nd is our only record.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*

A few Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*

Quite common and widespread: 1 Weiden am See on 17th, a few on 18th, lots various sites on 19th, a few on 21st, and Lange Lacke on 22nd.

METALMARKS - Riodinidae

Duke of Burgundy *Hamearis lucina*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Vanessids & smaller Fritillaries - subf: Nymphalinae

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*

Singles on 17th and 21st.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*

Common and widespread and noted on 6 days (not on 20th or 23rd).

Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*

Singles noted on 17th, 18th and 21st.

Glanville Fritillary *Melitaea cinxia*

Singles Sandeck track on 19th and Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Larger Fritillaries & Heliconians - subf: Heliconiinae

Queen of Spain Fritillary *Issoria lathonia*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Clossiana selene*

1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Woodland Ringlet *Erebia medusa*

2, presumably of this species (given their large size and early flight season), Schneeberg on 20th.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*

Sandeck track on 19th is our only record.

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*

Plenty various sites on 17th, lots on 18th, plenty on 19th, and several Lange Lacke on 22nd.

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Just a few Hohe Wand on 18th and Schneeberg on 20th.

Wall Brown *Lasiommata megera*

A couple Warmblüterkoppel on 19th is our only record.

MOTHS - LEPIDOPTERA

LEOPARD & GOAT MOTHS - COSSIDAE

Reed Leopard *Phragmitaecia castaneae*
A male Oberstinkersee on 19th is our only record.

FORESTER & BURNET MOTHS - ZYGAENIDAE

Six-spot Burnet *Zygaena filipendulae*
Numerous burnet moths Sandeck track on 19th and the Lange Lacke & Sandeck track on 22nd were probably this species.

GEOMETERS - GEOMETRIDAE

Latticed Heath *Chiasmia clathrata*
noted on 2 days with Hohe Wand on 18th, Sandeck track on 19th.

Speckled Yellow *Pseudopanthera macularia*
1 Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES - ODONATA

DEMOISELLES - Calopterygidae

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*
Lots Einser Kanal on 17th is our only record.

EMERALD DAMSELFLIES - Lestidae

Migrant Spreadwing *Lestes barbarus*
12+ Lange Lacke on 22nd is our only record.

Common Winter Damsel *Sympecma fusca*
Plenty Einser Kanal on 17th is our only record.

BLUE-TAILED & RED DAMSELFLIES - Coenagrionidae

Azure Bluet/Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*
Several Sandeck track on 18th is our only record.

Variable Bluet/Damselfly *Coenagrion pulchellum*
100s Neusiedl am See on 21st is our only record.

Common Bluet / Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*
Lots Einser Kanal on 17th, several Warmblüterkoppel on 19th, a few Neusiedl am See on 21st.

Large Red-eye / Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas*
15 Marchegg' on 21st is our only record.

Common Bluetail / Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*
Lots Einser Kanal on 17th, lots Sandeck track on 18th and 22nd, and lots various sites on 19th.

HAWKERS & EMPERORS - Aeshnidae

Green-eyed/Norfolk Hawker *Aeshna isoceles*
Several Einser Kanal+ on 17th, 1+ Warmblüterkoppel on 19th and 12s Sandeck track on 22nd.

Blue Emperor [Dragonfly] *Anax imperator*
Single males Einser Kanal on 17th and en route. in Hungary on 22nd.

Lesser Emperor *Anax parthenope*
Several Warmblüterkoppel on 19th, and a few various sites on 22nd.

Hairy Hawker/Dragonfly *Brachytron pratense*
1 male Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

CHASERS, SKIMMERS & DARTERS - Libellulidae

Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*
A pair & 1 male Einser Kanal on 17th, a few Warmblüterkoppel on 19th, and a few Marchegg on 21st.

Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*
1 Weiden am See on 17th, 1 Sandeck track on 18th, lots Warmblüterkoppel on 19th, several Marchegg on 21st, but 1000s Sandeck track on 22nd.

Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*
1 male Warmblüterkoppel on 19th, and several Sandeck track on 22nd.

OTHER SELECTED INSECTS - INSECTA

TRUE CRICKETS - Gryllidae

Field Cricket *Gryllus campestris*

Heard Sandeck track on 22nd is our only record.

SOCIAL WASPS - Vespidae

Hornet *Vespa crabro*

Several Marchegg on 21st is our only record.

BEES - Xylocopidae

Violet Carpenter Bee *Xylocopa violacea*

Singles Andau on 17th and Marchegg on 21st.

SCARABS & CHAFERS - Scarabaeidae

Shiny Blue Dung Beetle ??

Several Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

Rose Chafer *Cetonia aurata*

Several Andau plain on 17th is our only record.

MOLLUSCS - MOLLUSCA

Roman Snail *Helix pomatia*

Several Hohe Wand on 18th is our only record.

LARGER FISH - PISCES

Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*

Plenty Puchberg am Schneeberg on 20th is our only record.

Stephen Daly & John Muddeman, May 2009

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