

Eastern Austria in autumn

29th August – 4th September 2010

Leader

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Introduction

Austria is traditionally thought of as a country of mountain and forests, but tucked away in the south-east is a very different and usually surprising area for the first time visitor accustomed to thinking of the country as rugged and Alpine. 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 adjacent Hungarian *Fertő-Hanság* National Park contain a mosaic of steppic lakes, salt-marsh, wet pastures and flower-rich grazing meadows within a matrix of arable fields, vineyards and woodland. It also includes a huge belt of reed-bed that fringes the 320 km² Lake Neusiedl. The lake itself has an average depth of just 1.5m and to the south and to the east lies the *Hanság*, a former fen, now covered by woodlands and wet meadows.

This is one of Europe's jewels, rich in a wide diversity of wildlife. As since our first visit here back in the late 1980s, our natural history holiday in autumn 2010 was centred on the lakeside town of Neusiedl-am-See in Burgenland.

The whole area is an important European breeding ground for 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 now come across rare breeds, such as Hungarian Grey Cattle, Mangalitz Pigs, White Donkeys and Przwalski Horses, while even Water Buffalo are used to help create variation in the habitat. But with access to the woodlands of the Danube and March rivers –forming the boundary with the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the north–, plus visits to the limestone cliff and pinewoods of the *Hohe Wand* (“High Wall”) and alpine habitats of the nearby mountains a little further to the W, the trip encompasses a superb range of habitats present in the region, with a correspondingly wide array of birds, in particular.

The switch from summer to autumn is rapid here, our tour visiting at a time when it can be hot and sunny – so producing more sightings of butterflies and dragonflies – or much cooler and sometimes wet, but so producing a greater selection of birds on passage, but a fine selection of wildlife in either case. This time it was the latter, but we still managed to see remarkable variety of wildlife, despite an unseasonable excess of wind and rain at the beginning of the trip!

Daily diary

Sunday 29th August

Vienna airport, Neusiedl-am-See, Seewinkel National park.

Sunny, cloudy, warm, cool, still, breezy and dry!

After arriving in Vienna, we winced as we crept out of the underground car park thinking the roof would be scraped off, but thankfully we were soon off without incident towards our hotel, including a relaxing lunch break en route. After checking in to the Hotel Wende, we went out again to take our first look at the area. A Eurasian Sparrowhawk circled over as we gathered by the vehicle, and the first of numerous Western Marsh Harriers and Eurasian Kestrels were quickly noted along the roadsides as we headed down the eastern side of the lake.

Warmsee was very full of water, a reflection of the unseasonably high groundwater levels and also some recent heavy rain. And also almost bird free, or so it first looked. Several raptors hovering so

close together opposite was a bit odd, and one indeed seemed slightly different... a superb juvenile Red-footed Falcon hovering amongst the kestrels and giving excellent, even if mobile, views in the 'scopes! A brief Eurasian Curlew for Richard was good, while no less than three Great White Egrets appeared in flight over the far shore and a calling Common Redshank flew past.

Another lake nearby, actually holding water after intense rain 10 days before, was surprisingly dead, given it had been a great site for waders (almost) ever since, though a White Stork suddenly dropped into an adjacent field as we were leaving, giving good views and brightening up proceedings.

We moved on again, this time to Zicklacke. After good looks at a juvenile Red-backed Shrike on a post, we moved across the road to find good water levels in the lake. This was terrific, holding a fine selection of waders and duck, including numerous Eurasian Teal, a juvenile Red Knot, 10 Little Stints, a couple of Black-winged Stilts, 2 adult and 6 juvenile Little Gulls and a few Black Terns, plus a Whinchat in adjacent reeds. With excellent light and very little breeze the conditions were too good to cut our excursion short, so we detoured on our return to another lake, which was excellent too! Lots of Pied Avocets and Spotted Redshank graced the water along with a couple of loafing Common Gulls amongst the more abundant and larger Yellow-legged. 'Prooping' calls overhead heralded the arrival of a delightful and typically busy group of European Bee-eaters, but little were we prepared for the sight of over 200 of these magnificent birds adorning the power lines as we started to head N and back towards the hotel.

We arrived back an hour later than expected, but delighted with a really impressive series of sightings of some lovely birds

Monday 30th August

Seewinkel National Park.

Generally heavily overcast and cool, with max. 15°C. Light-moderate rain midday, becoming intermittent later. Still, then mostly light NW breeze p.m.

Despite rain before breakfast, it was still outside, and once we'd left at 8:45, the rain soon eased and allowed some excellent – albeit cool – birdwatching conditions. Working down the E side of the lake the complete absence of small passerines was very evident, with strangely, no migrants and virtually no resident birds visible at all rain. However, the shallowly flooded lake edge held good numbers of wildfowl and waders and we used the height of a covered hide to great advantage. Dunlin, Common Snipe, Little Ringed Plovers, Common Sandpipers, the respective first sightings of three Garganey and three Purple Herons for the day, the first of numerous Red-crested Pochard, Little and Great White Egrets, Western Marsh Harriers and Wood Sandpipers, all illustrated how rich the area is and its importance for breeding and migrant birds. One unusual sight was of a large flock of Eurasian Starlings feeding in the grass, closely accompanied by a milling flock of Sand Martins skimming just over their heads to pick up any tiny insects they disturbed as they fed. A truly remarkable example of opportunistic feeding, given the near absence of flying insects in the cold and damp conditions.

A short stop to admire the woolly-coated Mangalitzka Pigs revealed a few Eurasian Tree Sparrows amongst the House Sparrows, while a smaller lake nearby held up to 10 speckle-backed Wood Sandpipers, 4 Little Ringed Plovers, a brief Curlew Sandpiper and a tiny Temminck's Stint, usually creeping along the edge in typical fashion. A quick look before climbing another tower hide showed that the lake edge was poor, but fortunately, just before leaving, some movement in bushes caught my eye, and a large grey warbler hopped into view: a juvenile Barred Warbler, which then gave excellent views and also led to us finding several juvenile Great Reed Warblers begging for food as they chased an adult through the reeds and bushes!

The Oberstinkersee was very similar to the day before, with numerous Pied Avocets in the water and abundant White Wagtails along the edges, but a small flock of Dunlin attracted a single Little Stint to join them, giving excellent close views, the two Common Ringed Plover from the day before had moved across the road and two juvenile Common Shelduck were a welcome addition to the list. A chance meeting with an Austrian former client of mine revealed that the two Dalmatian Pelicans which had been hanging around the lake had been present in the morning, and given that we were now quite cold in the damp and chilly conditions, we headed S, stopping for a reviving coffee en route.

The caffeine and tea-eine worked their magic and we drove down to the end of a track, overlooking a broad area of grazing marsh bordering the lake, and took a 5-minute walk to a fine new tower hide. Well, it would have been 5 minutes without stopping numerous times for dozens of very active Little

and Great White Egrets, Eurasian Spoonbills and hundreds of ducks! But with heavier rain boding on a stiffening breeze, we all made it into the hide before it started to rain more seriously, allowing us to simply wait it out while watching the huge number of birds in front. OK, so the pelicans had decided to clear off, but not so the huge numbers of Mallard, Gadwall and Eurasian Teal, plus several Eurasian Wigeon, and passing flocks of 4 Tufted Ducks and Red-crested Pochards. The distance to the reedbeds made it difficult to see some of the species well, but passing Purple Herons, a single Great Bittern and plenty of Pygmy Cormorants, including one flock of 11, highlighted the quality of the viewing, while the discovery of a superb adult Eurasian Hobby which came in to land on the open grassland in front was the final highlight before having to leave for lunch!

We dropped into Podersdorf for our first experience of the quality of the lunches available in the local restaurants, and rounded off the afternoon with a trip to the far SE corner, right on the Hungarian border. Very flighty small birds in the bushes, including Lesser Whitethroat and Common Nightingale were too fast and gave the group the slip, but not so a wider range of commoner species including Eurasian Greenfinches, European Goldfinches, numerous Common Stonechats and another Whinchat. Common Buzzards were scattered all over, drying out on the hay bales, and plenty of Western Marsh Harriers were present too, including a male which dropped food, in flight, to a whinging chick!

The Einser Kanal was highly productive too, with good numbers of small birds in the willows in the former no man's land, including another Barred and a few Willow Warblers, 2 Spotted and a Pied Flycatcher, and Great and Blue Tits, while a calling Common Nightingale again refused to show! A calling Black Woodpecker flew to feed on a large willow, with its mate calling off to one side, with a male Ferruginous Duck stealing the show for a short while as it flew towards, then over and past us before dropping down onto the canal to feed. The whole event was rounded off by a Little Bittern though, which after flying across to one side of the canal, returned a few minutes later, at least allowing most brief flight views as it went! A terrific finale to a great day, despite a few mozzie bites as trade-off!!!

Tuesday 31st August

Hohe Wand, Schönauer Teich.

Cool to cold. Heavy cloud, strong NW wind and persistent rain all day, though slightly variable in intensity. Rain stopping late evening.

What a contrast! The forecast had been bad, with strong NW winds and a band of intense rain from c. 11 a.m. until c. 5 p.m., but the rain started c. 8 a.m. and lasted all day... with a max temperature of just 12.5°C and a minimum on the upper part of the Hohe Wand of just 7°C, it was tough going indeed!

However, one needs to try, so we headed to the Hohe Wand, which faces somewhat SE. Indeed, as we arrived, it was virtually still at the bottom despite thick cloud coming over the top and 'out'. But the rain meant that not only was it difficult to watch, but the noise of dripping on the umbrellas and waterproofs meant it was all but impossible to hear birds too! A small group of Coal Tits, a calling European Robin and a flighty Blackcap showed that a few birds were about, with a superb Marsh Tit at short range the highlight in the car park.

A short way ahead Chris spotted something sitting on a large stick nest in a cave in the cliff, so I went back for a 'scope. The blue-grey back, barred underparts with an orange tint on the breast and black face markings showed it was a superb Peregrine hiding from the rain, and a great find! But apart from a few Great Tits and Blackcaps, we saw nothing else, and so content ourselves with enjoying some of the flowers! The meadow under the cliff had rejuvenated after cutting with the autumn rains from c. 10 day previously, and was full of lovely – but soggy – flowers, including an autumn-flowering broomrape of most note. The track was also lined with more flowers, including Marjoram, Betony, Viper's Bugloss, Agrimony, a Sea Aster and a narrow-leaved Eryngo, though the most attractive was the beautiful local cow-wheat with its yellow flowers offset but spiky mauve bracts, and the tall Jupiter's Distaff was still in full flower!

Almost all were already back in the bus when a black bird flapped low across and disappeared into the trees. A whistling call revealed it was a Black Woodpecker, which but showed only very briefly again as it flapped ponderously out a couple of minutes later.

After having braved it out, we moved up to the Gasthof Postl for a warming drink, though sadly they hadn't been putting food in the feeder and no small birds, except for a few charming Black Redstarts, were present.

The short walk before lunch took us down to the Sky Walk, and though we tried looking at a large mixed flock of birds en route in the driving rain, we only managed to see a few Coal Tits and a very brief Crested Tit, heard Marsh Tit and Eurasian Nuthatch, but it was impossible in the swaying trees and with the rain sometimes lashing down! The walk out beyond the edge of the cliff was only braved by a hardy few, while the walk back was punctuated by a stop for an elusive, calling Goldcrest. Walking back into the wind and rain was cold and wet, though several birds moving in the shelter of a row of trees behind the *Gasthof* were Mistle Thrushes heading for a fruiting Rowan. However, since the party had separated a little, only the front runners had the briefest of views of two Ring Ouzels flying up into the trees, and the cold and wet finally forced us to return to take lunch in the shelter and warmth!

Having finally dried out, we dropping back down into the lowlands and headed for a few fishponds and a lake, the Schönauer Teich. The first held plenty of Common Coots, Little Grebes, a Tufted Duck, Mute Swans and a peculiar family of white-tailed Mallards, plus plentiful Barn Swallows, House and Sand Martins skimming low over the water's surface seeking out insects in the chill wind. The main lake though, apart from a fine flock of 40+ Common Pochard, also held a pair of lovely Ferruginous Ducks, a single female Red-crested Pochard and a couple of Great Crested and Little Grebes for variety.

After detouring, we rounded off the day with a drive through some arable land for a couple of key species. European Hares were plentiful, but of most note were a couple of large flocks of Hooded and Carrion (and hybrid) Crows (and not Rooks as expected/hoped) and even better, of Stock Doves. A few Common Buzzards over a wood and Western Marsh harriers over the fields rounded off the visit and we returned early to relax, warm up and dry off!

Wednesday 1st September

Seewinkel National Park.

Mostly cloudy but with short sunny spells, and despite strong NW winds all day, only a brief squall late p.m. 13°C start, climbing to 19°C max.

A pre-breakfast jaunt down to the Graurinderkoppel may not have turned up the vagrant Dalmatian Pelicans (again), but certainly blew away any cobwebs in the near gale force conditions! An adult Little Gull flew past over the vineyards as we arrived, with a Eurasian Hobby dashing past along the same line a few minutes later. Numerous birds were also moving into the wind along the edge of the lake, including an adult and an immature White-tailed Eagle, putting up large numbers of ducks and geese as they went, and both of which then perched on the ground for us to watch in the scopes from the tower hide. Plenty of Pygmy Cormorants were moving over the reedbeds, plus distant Purple Herons, but we spent most of the time trying to concentrate on the hordes of closer ducks and a few waders in the flooded grassland. Huge numbers of Gadwall caught our eye, along with some passing Garganey, Red-crested Pochards and a dozen Black-tailed Godwit, large numbers of Great White Egrets were again present and some 130+ Eurasian Spoonbills were all feeding in just one, albeit large, pool. Large numbers of Sand Martins, a few Western Yellow Wagtails and a Whinchat rounded off the return for a well-earned breakfast!

Chris and Jenny took the rest of the day off to visit Vienna (Chris even managing to spot two Great Bustards from the train en route!), while the rest of the group went on a fruitless bustard search down to the Hanság. A fine Northern Goshawk hassling a Common Buzzard over the woods was a good start though, later bettered at the Einser Kanal when persistent watching lead to the discovery of an immature Eastern Imperial Eagle hanging in the wind over the canal for around half an hour! The sunny spells here also tempted a few dragonflies to sun themselves in a sheltered spot, and we soon discovered that we were watching males and females of several darter species. Indeed, the photos revealed males and females of Southern and Ruddy Darters, plus a female Moustached Darter, the latter (finally!) new for John.

The drive back allowed a quick pause by an infamous well (given that it seems to be a trap for amphibians and reptiles), where a large gravid female Sand Lizard was fished out and released, before we headed off towards lunch. A missed turning proved to be fortuitous though, with a stunning adult male Golden Oriole flying along in front of us before pitching into a small tree from where it refused

to budge in the strong winds. We sat in the car and watched for some time until leaving it in peace (still hiding!). Two closed *Gasthofs* later we found another and sat down for a welcome break from the wind!

We passed Zicklacke, but given plenty of people and few birds apparently present we continued on down towards the Illmitz Marina, turning round to get onto a track and off the road. Stopping, we almost immediately found a hovering Osprey, a fairly scarce migrant here, and while watching it also watched a huge-billed adult Caspian Tern fly past! Both then soon left to the S within 5 minutes of each other, showing us just how true the 'right time, right place' adage is! Passing Pygmy Cormorant, Purple Herons and Common and Red-crested Pochards were also enjoyed before we took a quick look at a nearby pool. Apart from plentiful 'Marsh' Frogs in the damp grass, Common Bluetails and a Common Bluet kept us occupied too for a few minutes, and thankfully, given almost no birds!

The birds at the Zicklacke were mostly more distant than previously, so once again we moved on, this time for a little wander round the National Park centre – plus quick views of a perched juvenile Eurasian Hobby clutching a dead House Martin – before heading down to the Oberstinkersee. This was good, with a small flock of 'peeps' along the N shore, giving good views in the bright light, this being a mixed flock of juvenile Sanderling, juvenile Little Stints, a Temminck's Stint and various Dunlin, plus a few Common Ringed and a Little Ringed Plover on the mud nearby. An excellent comparison! With another flock of 25 peeps on the Hölle Pond being 21 Dunlin and four Curlew Sandpipers, this was a superb end to the day, especially given a few juvenile European Bee-eaters feeding noisily low over an adjacent meadow.

Thursday 2nd September

Hohe Wand & Schneeberg.

Mild and cloudy, but just 4-5°C on the Schneeberg with a variable breeze and a little light rain.

After stopping en route for a family of Common Buzzards playing over some pine forest, the still and reasonable conditions at the Hohe Wand (what a contrast to the previous visit!) revealed a series of new birds for the tour in quick succession. A few Eurasian Crag Martins fed amongst the Common House Martins overhead, a pair of croaking Common Ravens flew along the rock face and several Black Redstarts played hide-and-seek in the bushes in the meadow below us. But considerable patience was called for as it was actually rather quiet, though a fine group of Chamois fed on the upper crags and with sunny spells, the butterflies in the meadow suddenly started to appear and deservedly required our attention. A female Sooty Cooper, single Silver-spotted Skipper, Chalkhill Blue, Marbled White, **Chestnut Heath** and Great Banded Grayling, plus a few Adonis Blues and Brown Argus were all rightfully admired amongst a few commoner species, largely attracted to the variety of flowers present. And though we unsuccessfully waited for the calling Spotted Nutcracker, Black and European Green Woodpeckers to appear, repeat showings of the Chamois and a pair of Peregrines, plus a brief Eurasian Sparrowhawk kept us looking! Indeed, just as we finally called it a day, a repeated 'seep' call from the pines alerted us to a fine Rock Bunting, which dropped down and perched in full view on some roses!

Looking up from the bottom, the Schneeberg wasn't looking good, given a cap of cloud starting just above the upper station and the knowledge that it wasn't even 4°C at the top! But fine climb, including and bright male Yellowhammer at the Baumgartner station for Chris during a brief stop, meant it was worth it. Indeed, at the top, all the 'usual suspects' were seen, and well, starting with a couple of Alpine Choughs, and continuing with Water Pipits, Lesser Redpolls, Dunnocks, and even several Northern Wheatears (which I haven't seen here in spring for a few years). With plentiful Chamois and Common Ravens, it kept us busy as we walked up a little way onto the main plateau. Additionally, the heavy snow which had fallen on Monday and Tuesday had left a truly wintery feel, despite numerous Austrian and a few Spotted Gentians poking out from under the snow in a few spots where this still lay!

A warming lunch was taken in a very Austrian restaurant and then it was time to return. With more pauses at two spots in the lee of the breeze, this was very rewarding for the views of more Water Pipits and Lesser Redpolls seen, plus a pair of Eurasian Bullfinches and finally a huge flock of Coal Tits and Common Chiffchaffs moving through the Dwarf Mountain Pines, including at least two Lesser Whitethroats amongst them.

Friday 3rd September

Parndorfer Platte, Marchegg, Hohenau.

Almost dead still all day, largely overcast but with occasional sunny spells, max. 19°C.

Despite what we'd seen, the day really needed to be good, and so it was! Indeed, it was organised to try and maximise our chances of 'catching up' with a few of the species we'd either missed or not had a chance to try and see so far, and the forecast bode well for migrants moving down the March river valley...

Our first stop in a small gully, amongst species-rich grassland, small patches of woodland and adjacent to arable fields was rewarding. Two Lesser and a Common Whitethroat played hide-and-peek in some elder bushes while a flock of Eurasian Tree Sparrows flew back and forth and a couple of Common Stonechats 'chacked' from tall grass. A Marsh Tit showed on the edge of a patch of False Acacia woodland where a fine flock of Long-tailed Tits, including a number of striking white-headed birds, also fed. Other birds moving with these included Willow Warblers, a Red-backed Shrike kept a low profile nearby and a Tree Pipit flew out calling noisily. But the views over a valley opposite were also rewarding, given a brief adult and then extended views of a juvenile Eastern Imperial Eagle, including perched in a small tree!

Finally pulling ourselves away we started north, turning off to search one agricultural area, and finding a series of birds, including a number of migrant Northern Wheatears, a mixed flock of White and Yellow Wagtails, including a fine *thunbergi* male, and best of all (at least for John ☺) a surprise Tawny Pipit.

With slightly clearer skies to the N, we moved on again, this time to Marchegg, crossing the Danube, carrying plenty of water, and entered the reserve car park, only to be directed in by two ushers... The "Stork Festival" was on, and the sound people were testing the (incredible) volume on a variety of artists and recordings as we tried to enjoy the peace and quiet of the reserve! That said, most was of the latter under water again (as in the spring), so we content ourselves with views from the raised floodbank. The birds were (not unsurprisingly) quiet, but with the sun appearing, so a range of insects came out, including a male Banded Demoiselle, plenty of Southern and Ruddy Darters, Migrant Hawkets, and amongst a range of commoner butterflies, a truly stunning Lesser Purple Emperor, which came down to drink on the bare mud bank! Better still was when it took a liking to us, perching first on John's boots to sup salts (Yeugh?!) and then later on Richard and then Sheila's trousers!

This also gave time for the sound men to drop their work for a while, allowing us to watch two passing White-tailed Eagles, hear a whistling Common Kingfisher, and to finally locate a couple of calling woodpeckers in relative peace. A Lesser Spotted was rather brief, but both Middle Spotted and then Great Spotted Woodpeckers in the same tree respectively gave good, protracted views. Calling European Green and for Richard, Grey-faced Woodpeckers, just highlighted how good the area is, if it weren't for the onslaught of mosquitoes! A superb group of 12 Black Storks drifting N and a Red Kite cruising over were excellent and well-earned additions.

We headed N again, this time looking for lunch as well (!), with stops for 3 superb Eastern Imperial Eagles circling together, three Black Storks doing the same, a drifting juvenile Montagu's Harrier, and even without a stop as we watched a huge adult White-tailed Eagle cruise N parallel to us as we drove onwards!

Hohenau was finally reached and we headed into a restaurant for a fine (and copious) lunch before diverting to a tower hide overlooking some pools. Little was there, though we were patient and watched the skies as well for some time, finding a Black Stork, White-tailed Eagle, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Eurasian Hobby and plenty of Western Marsh Harriers, as well as a small flock of European Bee-eaters hawking over the woods. Some nearby settlement pits were rather quiet, but ringing activity there allowed us to watch the ringing of a Tree Pipit and also see our first Fire-bellied Toads in some rainwater pools.

But it was perhaps our return which seemed to be a pay-off for the poor weather at the beginning of the week. Diverting across the Parndorfer Platte we cruised along looking principally (though unsuccessfully) for Grey Partridge, but a small falcon crossing low over us was clearly a male Red-footed Falcon and we got out to look closer. Behind a shelter belt there were actually two, which then perched and gave superb views –including eating a small rodent as the group watched–, but on the other side, some 'time-filling' scanning also came up trumps, with a superb perched Saker on a pylon! But even as we watched this, another was hunting across the far end of the same (huge) field, and then we noticed a third sat on an adjacent pylon!!!

We naturally returned jubilant to the hotel at the end of our last full day in E Austria.

Saturday 4th September

Breitenbrunn, airport and home.

Dry and cool. A quite sunny start before breakfast, rapidly becoming overcast and with a light breeze forming.

With just a couple of hours spare before leaving for the airport, most of us took a slightly earlier breakfast and were out promptly at 8 a.m.

The aim was to try to look for some small reedbed birds, and with almost still conditions this finally looked possible! However, it was cool and very overcast, seemingly dampening down small bird activity. The car park held a few migrant Willow Warblers, Eurasian Chiffchaffs and Pied Flycatchers in the trees, though Chris quickly spotted a female Common Redstart, a very scarce migrant here. The dense reeds fringing a wide channel were being worked by a couple of noisy birds, which turned out to be an adult and a begging young Savi's Warbler, which were both seen briefly as they flew across a small gap below us. Large Great Reed Warblers were also seen briefly on a couple of occasions as they flapped off through the reeds, but not so the Eurasian Reed Warblers calling from deep in the vast reedbeds.

A briefly 'squealing' Water Rail was added, though even ducks were largely absent given the intense hunting going on in the reedbeds the next (with a number of Italian number plates on vehicles suggesting the origin of many of the hunters). Four passing Purple Herons were of note though.

Returning to the car park we took another walk round, with a superb, albeit mobile, Wood Warbler a fine reward, and then were heading back to the hotel to (finish?!) packing.

We returned to the airport in under threatening skies, noting a stunning adult White-tailed Eagle off to one side which came down to land in a field as we passed, and with plenty of time to get the early afternoon flight back to the UK, we took a minor diversion very close to the airport to give us our last new species (even with a drop of sunshine!). Parking on the verge allowed the majority out to try and contemplate a couple of delightful little European Sausliks that we'd seen as we approached, but they'd clearly been spooked and so we moved on to the airport.

We bade our farewells at the Terminal (as my flight was over 5 hours later) and went our separate ways back to our respective destinations.

Despite the cold and the rain and the wind at times (!!!), once again we enjoyed a productive autumn trip to Central Europe. Despite being unusually cool, plus windy and wet at times, we still recorded one of the highest number of bird species we've ever recorded on this tour in autumn (and also despite also having one less day in total!), including most of the really key species for the region, plus several scarce species which we found for ourselves. Indeed the mixed weather was responsible in part for delaying the exit of some species and grounding a number of migrants – especially waders – on their passage, and so we delighted in finding new species throughout the week, including right to the very end.

Highlights are difficult to decide, but almost undoubtedly include the two trips to enjoy the sheer abundance of birds at the Graurinderkoppel, the Osprey and Caspian Tern within moments of each other, the fabulous flock of nearly 40 Great Bustards we enjoyed one day and of course the evening on the Parndorfer Platte watching no less than three Sakers and two adult male Red-footed Falcons at leisure in lovely conditions. While the large numbers of Chamois, plus European Hares and Roe Deer (both present in artificially high numbers for hunting) were impressive too, perhaps the cute little European Sausliks, just a stone's throw from the airport departure terminal will perhaps get a look-in among the mammals!

I look forward to seeing you again on a Travelling Naturalist and/or Limosa tour, and wish to thank you all for helping make this such a rewarding holiday.

Very best wishes, John Muddeman (www.iberianwildlife.com)

SPECIES LISTS

Before reading, please note that the bird names and list follow the taxonomy and names used by F. Gill and M. Wright. 2008. *Birds of the World: Recommended English Names*. Princeton University Press.

This differs significantly in order, but only slightly in the common and scientific names used when compared to most field guides currently in use (and even the checklist!). Most significant name changes or alternative names are also included to minimise the confusion!

BIRDS - AVES

GROUSE, PHEASANTS & allies - Phasianidae

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*: Common and widespread, especially in the lowlands, and seen daily except on 31st.

GEESE, SWANS & DUCKS - Anatidae

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*: Abundant around the Seewinkel National Park and noted in numbers on 29th, 30th and 1st.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*: 1 Podersdorf on 29th, 4 Graurinderkoppel and 6 Einser Kanal on 30th, 8 Schönauer Teich on 31st, plenty various sites on 1st, and 2 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*: At Oberstinkersee, 2 on 30th, and 6 on 1st.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*: Only noted at the Graurinderkoppel, but plenty there on 29th and abundant there on 1st.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*: Also only noted at Graurinderkoppel, with 5+ there on 30th, and 10+ on 1st.

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*: Common, widespread and noted in variable number daily except on 2nd.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*: Several various sites on 30th, and on 1st.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*: Three Podersdorf on 30th, and 3-4 Graurinderkoppel on 1st.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*: Abundant in and around L. Neusiedl, and noted commonly there on 29th, abundantly on 30th and on 1st, plus a few in flight Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*: Plenty various sites on 30th, 1 female Schönauer Teich on 31st, and a few Illmitz Marina on 1st.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*: 40+ Schönauer Teich on 31st, and 5 in flight Illmitz Marina on 1st.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*: Single 'pairs' Einser Kanal on 30th, and Schönauer Teich on 31st.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*: 4 Graurinderkoppel on 30th, and 3 Schönauer Teich on 31st.

GREBES - Podicipedidae

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*: Plenty on the Einser Kanal and a few other sites on 30th, 10+ Schönauer Teich on 31st, and several Einser Kanal on 1st.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*: Several Graurinderkoppel on 30th, 3+ Schönauer Teich on 31st, plenty various sites on 1st, and 1 Hohenau (Tim) on 2nd.

STORKS - Ciconiidae

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*: 12 Marchegg, 3 en route and 1 Hohenau on 3rd.

White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*: Good numbers for the autumn! Singles Neubrucklacke and en route on 29th, 3-4 en route on 30th, and 1 en route on 1st.

IBISES & SPOONBILLS - Threskiornithidae

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*: Only at Graurinderkoppel, but 100+ there on 30th and 130+ there on 1st.

HERONS & BITTERNs - Ardeidae

Eurasian/Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*: One distantly in flight Graurinderkoppel on 30th.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*: A female / juvenile Einser Kanal on 30th.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*: Common, widespread and noted in small to moderate number daily except on 2nd.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: 1 Podersdorf on 29th, 2 Podersdorf and 1 Einser Kanal on 30th, 6+ Illmitz Marina on 1st, and 4 juveniles Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Great [White] Egret *Ardea alba*: 3 Warmsee and 4 Podersdorf on 29th, 50+ Graurinderkoppel and other sites on 30th, plenty various sites on 1st, and 1 Hohenau on 3rd.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: 3 Podersdorf on 29th, 30+ Graurinderkoppel and other sites on 30th, and 1 Podersdorf on 1st.

CORMORANTS - Phalacrocoracidae

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*: Lots flying over the reedbeds at Graurinderkoppel on 30th, and again, plus 1 Illmitz Marina, on 1st.

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*: 5+ Graurinderkoppel on 30th, 2-3 various sites on 1st, 3 moving high over the Hohe Wand on 2nd, and singles Hohenau and Marchegg on 3rd.

FALCONS & allies - Falconidae

Common/Eurasian Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*: Abundant, widespread and seen daily.

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*: A superb juvenile Warmsee on 29th, and two adult males Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*: An adult Graurinderkoppel on 30th, 1 juvenile Graurinderkoppel, 2 adult Hanság, 1 adult Hölle Pool and 1 juvenile Illmitz on 1st, and 3 various sites on 3rd.

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*: 3 birds Parndorfer Platte on 3rd were a terrific record!

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: One Hohe Wand on 31st, and a pair there on 2nd.

HAWKS, EAGLES & allies - Accipitridae

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: A juvenile on migration Illmitz Marina on 1st.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*: An adult Marchegg on 3rd.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*: An adult plus an immature Graurinderkoppel on 1st, 3-4 various sites on 3rd, and 1 adult en route on 4th.

[Western] Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*: Very common, widespread and seen daily.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*: 1 juvenile on passage near Jedenburg on 3rd.

Eurasian Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*: Singles Neusiedl-am-See on 29th, Hohe Wand and en route on 2nd, and on the Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*: One Hanság on 1st.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*: Common, widespread and seen daily.

Asian/Eastern Imperial Eagle *Aquila heliaca*: An immature Hanság on 1st, an adult + a juvenile Parndorfer Platte and 2 juveniles + 1 immature together en route on 3rd.

BUSTARDS - Otidae

Great Bustard *Otis tarda*: A superb flock of 37 were seen at one site on one day, while Chris saw 2 near Bruck, from the train, on 1st.

RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS - Rallidae

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*: Just 2 heard briefly Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Several Einser Kanal on 30th, 1 Schönauer Teich on 31st, 2-3 Einser Kanal on 1st, and a few Hohenau on 3rd.

Eurasian/Common Coot *Fulica atra*: Common and widespread in lakes and pools, and seen daily except on 2nd.

STILTS & AVOCETS - Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: 2 Zicklacke + 5+ Oberstinkersee on 29th, and 12 Zicklacke on 1st.

Pied Avocet *Recurvirostra avoetia*: 100+ Oberstinkersee and other sites on 29th, and on 30th, plus plenty there on 1st.

PLOVERS & LAPWINGS - Charadriidae

Northern Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*: Good numbers in the fields, especially in the Seewinkel area, and seen daily except on 31st and 4th.

[Common] Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*: Two Oberstinkersee on 29th, and on 30th, and 4 there on 1st.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: Two Podersdorf and 4 Hölle Pool on 30th, and 2 Oberstinkersee and 4 Hölle Pool again on 1st.

SANDPIPERS, SNIPES & allies - Scolopacidae

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*: Several Podersdorf on 30th, and 10+ Graurinderkoppel on 1st.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*: 12 in flight Graurinderkoppel on 1st.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*: 2 Warmsee on 29th, and 1 Graurinderkoppel on 30th, and on 1st.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*: 150+ Warmsee and Oberstinkersee on 29th, 6+ various sites on 30th, 40+ Oberstinkersee on 1st.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: Singles Warmsee and Oberstinkersee on 29th.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*: One Oberstinkersee on 29th, 2 Podersdorf on 30th, and heard Zicklacke on 1st.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: 25+ various sites on 30th, and a few Graurinderkoppel on 1st.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*: 1 Zicklacke on 29th, 5+ various sites on 30th, and 1 Hohenau on 3rd.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*: 1 juvenile Zicklacke on 29th.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: 4 juveniles Oberstinkersee on 1st.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*: 10 Zicklacke on 29th, 1 juvenile Oberstinkersee on 30th, and 9 juveniles Oberstinkersee on 1st.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*: Singles Hölle Pool on 30th and Oberstinkersee on 1st.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*: 1 juvenile Hölle Pool on 30th, and 4 juveniles there on 1st.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*: About 10 Podersdorf + Oberstinkersee on 30th, and 9 Oberstinkersee and 21 Hölle Pool on 1st.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*: Several various sites on 29th.

GULLS, TERNS & SKIMMERS - Laridae

Common/Mew Gull *Larus canus*: At Oberstinkersee, 2+ on 29th, several on 30th, and 2 adult on 1st, plus plenty in fields in the Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis*: Abundant, widespread and seen commonly daily.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*: Small groups in the wetlands at various sites daily from 29th - 1st.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*: 2 adult + 6 juveniles Zicklacke on 29th, and 1 adult + 1 juvenile Graurinderkoppel and 5-6 Zicklacke on 1st.

Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*: 1 adult Illmitz Marina on 1st was a good record.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: 2 Oberstinkersee on 29th.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*: 4-5 Zicklacke on 29th, and 1 there on 1st.

PIGEONS & DOVES - Columbidae

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

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*: 150+ en route on 31st.

[Common] Wood Pigeon *Columba palumbus*: Common, widespread and seen daily.

European Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*: 1 en route c. 30 various sites on 30th, 1 en route on 1st, plenty various sites on 3rd.

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

CUCKOOS - Cuculidae

Common Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*: 1 juvenile Hanság on 30th.

SWIFTS - Apodidae

Common Swift *Apus apus*: 1 Oberstinkersee on 30th, 1 Marchegg on 3rd, and 2 Neusiedl-am-See on 4th.

KINGFISHERS - Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*: Only 1 heard briefly Marchegg on 3rd.

BEE-EATERS - Meropidae

European Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*: Excellent numbers! 200+ Podersdorf on 29th, c. 30 Einser Kanal on 30th, 3 juveniles Neusiedl-am-See on 31st, 10+ various sites on 1st and 12-15 Hohenau on 3rd.

WOODPECKERS - Picidae

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*: Just 1 briefly Marchegg on 3rd.

Middle Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos medius*: Heard Einser Kanal on 30th, 1 + heard Marchegg on 3rd.

Syrian Woodpecker *Dendrocopos syriacus*: Just 1 en route from the bus (!) on 1st.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*: Several Marchegg+ on 3rd, and 2 Neusiedl-am-See (Chris) on 4th.

Black Woodpecker *Dryocopus martius*: 1 + heard Einser Kanal on 30th, 1 Hohe Wand on 31st, and heard Hohe Wand on 2nd.

[European] Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*: Only heard, at Hohe Wand on 2nd, and at Hohenau on 3rd.

Grey-headed Woodpecker *Picus canus*: One heard (Richard) Marchegg on 3rd.

SHRIKES - Laniidae

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*: One juvenile Zicklacke on 29th, plenty of juveniles Seewinkel on 30th, 1 juvenile Hanság on 1st, and 1 Parndorfer Platte and 3 Hohenau on 3rd.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES - Oriolidae

[Eurasian] Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*: Just 1 adult male Lange Lacke on 1st.

CROWS, JAYS & MAGPIES - Corvidae

Eurasian Jay *Garrulus glandarius*: Just 1 seen and others heard Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Eurasian Magpie *Pica pica*: Present widely in small numbers and noted daily.

Spotted Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*: Just 2-3 heard Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Alpine Chough *Pyrrhocorax graculus*: A minimum of 3 Schneeberg on 2nd.

Western Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*: A few en route on 2nd, and 3 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*: Just 1 large flock en route on 2nd, and seen by Tim Neusiedl-am-See on 3rd.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone*: Carrion Crow type black birds at various locations on 4 days, mainly towards the Schneeberg and in Vienna (Chris) on 29th.

Hooded Crow *Corvus cornix*: Common, widespread and noted daily, including plenty of hybrids.

Northern/Common Raven *Corvus corax*: About 30 birds Hohe Wand and Schneeberg on 2nd.

TITS & CHICKADEES - Paridae

Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*: 1 + heard Hohe Wand on 31st, and 1 Parndorfer Platte and 2 Marchegg on 3rd.

Willow Tit *Poecile montana*: Just 1 heard Hohe Wand (Richard) on 2nd.

Coal Tit *Pariparus ater*: 5+ Hohe Wand on 31st, and 30+ Schneeberg on 2nd.

[European] Crested Tit *Lophophanes cristatus*: 1 briefly Hohe Wand on 31st.

Great Tit *Parus major*: 2 Einser Kanal on 30th, 2 Hohe Wand on 31st, 1 Neusiedl-am-See (Chris) on 2nd, several various sites on 3rd, 2 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Blue Tit *Cyanistes caeruleus*: 2 Einser Kanal on 30th, several Parndorfer Platte on 3rd, 4+ Breitenbrunn on 4th.

SWALLOWS & MARTINS - Hirundinidae

Sand Martin / Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*: Large numbers on migration in the Seewinkel from 29th - 1st, plus several Hohenau on 3rd.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Common, widespread and seen daily.

Eurasian Crag Martin *Ptyonoprogne rupestris*: At least 3 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

[Common] House Martin *Delichon urbicum*: Common, widespread and seen daily.

BUSHTITS, LONG-TAILED TITS - Aegithalidae

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*: 7-8 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

LARKS - Alaudidae

Eurasian/Common Skylark *Alauda arvensis*: Several Neubrucklacke on 29th, and a few Graurinderkoppel on 30th.

OLD WORLD WARBLERS - Sylviidae

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*: An adult + a juvenile Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*: 4-5 Podersdorf and 1 Oberstinkersee on 29th, 1 Neusiedl-am-See (Chris) on 31st, and 3+ Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*: Just 1 briefly Oberstinkersee on 29th.

[Eurasian] Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*: Heard Oberstinkersee on 29th, and several heard Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*: 1 Podersdorf and 2+ Einser Kanal on 30th, heard Hohe Wand on 31st, 1 + heard Hohe Wand on 2nd, 2 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd, and 3 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Common Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*: Lots Schneeberg on 2nd, heard Marchegg on 3rd, and 5-6 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*: 1 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*: 2-3 Einser Kanal on 30th, 3+ Hohe Wand on 31st, and heard Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Barred Warbler *Sylvia nisoria*: Singles Podersdorf and Einser Kanal (Chris) on 30th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*: 2+ Schneeberg on 2nd, and 2-3 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*: One Einser Kanal on 30th, and 1 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

CRESTS & KINGLETS - Regulidae

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*: Just 1 briefly Hohe Wand on 31st.

NUTHATCHES & WALLCREEPER - Sittidae

Eurasian Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*: Only heard! At Einser Kanal on 30th, Hohe Wand on 31st, and especially Marchegg on 3rd.

STARLINGS - Sturnidae

Common/European Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*: Extremely abundant and seen daily in large numbers.

THRUSHES - Turdidae

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*: Two birds briefly in flight in driving rain on the Hohe Wand on 31st.

Common Blackbird *Turdus merula*: 1 en route on 2nd, singles Neusiedl-am-See and Hohenau on 3rd, and 3 Neusiedl-am-See (Chris) on 4th.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*: C. 15 Hohe Wand on 31st.

OLD WORLD CHATS & FLYCATCHERS - Muscicapidae

European Robin *Erithacus rubecula*: Singles Hohe Wand on 31st, and on 2nd.

Common Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*: 3 heard Einser Kanal on 30th.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*: Noted daily in small-moderate number from 31st, especially by Chris.

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*: A female Breitenbrunn was a great find on 4th.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*: 1 Zicklacke on 29th, 2 Hanság on 30th, 1 Graurinderkoppel on 1st, and plenty Parndorfer Platte+ on 3rd.

European/Common Stonechat *Saxicola rubicola*: Plenty Hanság on 30th, 2 Hanság and 2 Illmitz on 1st, and plenty Parndorfer Platte+ on 3rd.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*: 4-5 Schneeberg on 2nd, and 5 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*: 2 Einser Kanal on 30th, and 1 Marchegg on 3rd.

[European] Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*: 1 Einser Kanal on 30th, and 3+ Breitenbrunn on 4th.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Passeridae

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Common, widespread and seen daily.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Plenty at a few sites on 30th, 10-20 Illmitz on 1st, plenty various sites on 3rd, and plenty Breitenbrunn on 4th.

ACCENTORS - Prunellidae

Dunnock / Hedge Accentor *Prunella modularis*: 8-10 Schneeberg on 2nd.

WAGTAILS & PIPITS - Motacillidae

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*: Several heard various sites on 29th, several various sites on 30th, several Graurinderkoppel+ on 1st, and 12+, including a male *thunbergi* and *flava* Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

White Wagtail *Motacilla alba*: Locally common around the Seewinkel and noted daily except on 31st and 2nd.

Tawny Pipit *Anthus campestris*: One on the Parndorfer Platte was a treat on 3rd.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*: Two singles on the Parndorfer Platte and 1 in the hand Hohenau on 3rd.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*: 15+ Schneeberg on 2nd.

FINCHES & allies - Fringillidae

Common Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*: Incredibly scarce! Heard Einser Kanal on 30th, and a few Hohe Wand on 31st.

European Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*: Just a few Einser Kanal area on 30th, and 1 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

European Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*: Several Einser Kanal on 30th, 6-7 Oberstinkersee on 1st, and a few Hohenau on 3rd.

Lesser Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*: 20+ Schneeberg on 2nd.

Common Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*: A pair Zicklacke on 29th, 2 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd, and 4+ Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Eurasian Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*: A 'pair' Schneeberg on 2nd.

BUNTINGS, NEW WORLD SPARROWS & allies - Emberizidae

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*: Just 1 male Schneeberg on 2nd.

Rock Bunting *Emberiza cia*: 1 excellent bird Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Common Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*: Just 1 briefly Oberstinkersee on 29th.

MAMMALS - MAMMALIA

RABBITS & HARES - Leporidae

Brown/European Hare *Lepus europaeus*: Abundant, widespread an seen daily in variable number.

SQUIRRELS - Sciuridae

Eurasian Red Squirrel *Sciurus vulgaris*: C. 10, inc black individuals in Vienna (Chris) on 1st.

European Souslik *Spermophilus citellus*: Just 2 from the bus near the airport on 4th.

MICE, RATS, VOLES & GERBILS - Muridae

Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*: One seen swimming across Oberstinkersee on 29th.

MOONRATS & HEDGEHOHENAUGS - Erinaceidae

Western Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*: Just 1 dor en route on 3rd.

SHREW-MOLES, MOLES & DESMANS - Talpidae

European Mole *Talpa europaea*: Plenty of hills at sites Neusiedl-am-See and Parndorfer Platte attributed to this species, but perhaps even mole-rats!

DEER - Cervidae

[Western] Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*: Common and widespread in the lowlands. 5 Hanság on 30th, 7 various sites on 1st, plenty en route on 2nd, lots Parndorfer Platte+ on 3rd.

CATTLE, ANTELOPE, SHEEP & GOATS - Bovidae

Chamois *Rupicapra rupicapra*: 50+ Hohe Wand and Schneeberg on 2nd.

REPTILES - REPTILIA

Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis*: A large gravid female Hanság on 1st.

Common Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*: A tiny lizard Marchegg was probably this species. on 3rd.

AMPHIBIANS - AMPHIBIA

Fire-bellied Toad *Bombina bombina*: 3 in puddles Hohenau on 3rd.

Common Toad *Bufo bufo*: 1 Einser Kanal on 30th.

Common/European Tree Frog *Hyla arborea*: Several heard Einser Kanal on 30th, and Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*: Plenty at various sites on 1st, a few Hohenau and Marchegg on 3rd, and 1 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

BUTTERFLIES - LEPIDOPTERA

Chequered & Grass Skippers - subf: Hesperinae

Silver-spotted Skipper *Hesperia comma*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

WHITES, YELLOWS & SULPHURS - Pieridae

Small White *Pieris rapae*: Small numbers seen on 29th and 1st – 4th.

METALMARKS, HAIRSTREAKS, COPPERS & BLUES - Lycaenidae

Large Copper *Lycaena dispar*: 1 female Hohe Wand on 2nd was this species and not a Sooty Cooper, despite the habitat.

Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*: 1 Illmitz Marina on 1st, several Hohe Wand on 2nd, 2-3 Parndorfer Platte on 3rd.

Adonis Blue *Lysandra bellargus*: Several Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Chalkhill Blue *Lysandra coridon*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Brown Argus *Aricia agestis*: Several Hohe Wand on 2nd.

(Purple) Emperors - subf: Apaturinae

Lesser Purple Emperor *Apatura ilia*: 1 Marchegg on 3rd.

Peacock *Inachis io*: Plenty Marchegg on 3rd, and 1 Breitenbrunn on 4th.

Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*: Several Marchegg on 3rd.

Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*: 1 Marchegg on 3rd.

Larger Fritillaries & Heliconians - subf: Heliconiinae

Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Browns, Ringlets & Satyrs - subf: Satyrinae

Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*: 1 Zicklacke on 29th, 2+ various sites on 1st, several Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Chestnut Heath *Coenonympha glycerion*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Marbled White *Melanargia galathea*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Great Banded Grayling *Brintesia circe*: 1 Hohe Wand on 2nd.

Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*: Several Hohe Wand on 2nd, and a few Marchegg on 3rd.

MOTHS - LEPIDOPTERA

HOOK-TIPS - DREPANIDAE

Chinese Character *Cilix glaucata*: 1 Illmitz Marina on 1st.

DAMSELFLIES & DRAGONFLIES - ODONATA

DEMOISELLES - Calopterygidae

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*: 1 male Marchegg on 3rd.

BLUE-TAILED & RED DAMSELFLIES - Coenagrionidae

Common Bluetail / Common Blue Damsel *Enallagma cyathigerum*: 1 male Illmitz Marina on 1st.

Common Bluetail / Blue-tailed Damsel *Ischnura elegans*: Plenty various sites on 1st, and Marchegg on 3rd.

HAWKERS & EMPERORS - Aeshnidae

Blue/Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*: A few Vienna (Chris) on 1st.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*: Lots various from 1st - 4th.

CHASERS, SKIMMERS & DARTERS - Libellulidae

Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*: Several Einser Kanal on 1st, and plenty Marchegg on 3rd.

Southern Darter *Sympetrum meridionale*: Plentiful Einser Kanal on 1st, and Marchegg on 3rd.

Moustached/Vagrant Darter *Sympetrum vulgatum*: A female Einser Kanal on 1st.

OTHER SELECTED TAXA

Hornet *Vespa crabro*: 1 Einser Kanal (Chris) on 1st.

?Oak Bush Cricket cf *Meconema thalassinum*: One daily hotel Neusiedl-am-See from 29th - 3rd when released!

Roman Snail *Helix pomatia*: Several Einser Kanal on 30th.

SELECTED PLANTS: some of those we saw, and I hope not to have missed too many!

<u>Pinaceae:</u>	<i>Larix decidua</i>	Larch
<u>Caryophyllaceae:</u>	<i>Gypsophila</i> cf <i>muralis</i> <i>Silene viscosa</i> <i>Silene vulgaris</i> <i>Dianthus alpina</i>	Gypsophila sp. White Sticky Catchfly Bladder Campion Alpine Pink
<u>Polygonaceae:</u>	<i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Buckwheat
<u>Cannabaceae:</u>	<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Cannabis
<u>Crassulaceae:</u>	<i>Jovibarba hirta</i>	Livelong sp.
<u>Parnassiaceae:</u>	<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	Grass-of-Parnassus
<u>Rosaceae:</u>	<i>Agrimonia</i> sp. <i>Alchemilla</i> sp/p. <i>Fragaria</i> sp/p. <i>Rosa</i> sp/p.	Agrimony sp. Lady's-mantle sp. Wild Strawberry/ies Wild Rose/s
<u>Fabaceae:</u>	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> <i>Lathyrus</i> sp. <i>Ononis spinosa</i> <i>Securigera varia</i>	False Acacia Wild Pea sp. Spiny Restharrow Crown Vetch
<u>Trapaceae:</u>	<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water Chestnut

<u>Linaceae:</u>	<i>Linum austriacum / hirsutum</i>	Blue flax sp/p.
<u>Balsaminaceae:</u>	<i>Impatiens noli-tangere</i> <i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	Orange Touch-me-not Small Touch-me-not
<u>Polygalaceae:</u>	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort
<u>Celastraceae:</u>	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle-tree
<u>Viscaceae:</u>	<i>Viscum album</i>	Mistletoe
<u>Elaeagnaceae:</u>	<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Oleaster
<u>Apiaceae:</u>	<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<u>Salicaceae:</u>	<i>Salix</i> spp.	Several large willow spp.
<u>Primulaceae:</u>	<i>Cyclamen purpurascens</i>	Sowbread
<u>Gentianaceae:</u>	<i>Gentiana punctata</i> <i>Gentianella austriaca</i>	Spotted Gentian Austrian Gentian
<u>Dipsacaceae:</u>	<i>Knautia arvensis</i> <i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i>	Field Scabious the pale scabious
<u>Boraginaceae:</u>	<i>Echium vulgare</i> <i>Symphytum</i> sp.	Viper's Bugloss Comfrey sp.
<u>Scrophulariaceae:</u>	<i>Euphrasia</i> cf <i>officinalis</i> <i>Linaria vulgaris</i> <i>Melampyrum cristatum</i> <i>Odontites vulgaris</i> <i>Melampyrum cristatum</i> <i>Verbascum</i> sp.	Eyebright sp. Yellow Toadflax Crested Cow-wheat Red Bartsia Crested Cow-wheat Mullein sp.
<u>Verbenaceae:</u>	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
<u>Lamiaceae:</u>	<i>Thymus</i> sp/p. <i>Galeopsis</i> sp. <i>Salvia austriaca</i>	Thyme sp/p. Hemp-nettle sp. 'Austrian' Clary
<u>Campanulaceae:</u>	<i>Campanula</i> spp.	Various Bellflower spp.
<u>Asteraceae:</u>	<i>Achillea millefolium</i> agg. <i>Artemisia</i> spp. <i>Chicorium intybus</i> <i>Solidago</i> sp.	Yarrow sp. Wormwood spp. Chicory Goldenrod sp.
<u>Colchicaceae:</u>	<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Autumn Crocus
<u>Cyperaceae:</u>	<i>Cladium mariscus</i>	Saw-sedge

John Muddeman, September 2010

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