

THE TRAVELLING NATURALIST

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AUSTRIA

Lake Neusiedl in Spring & Autumn

30 August – 6 September 2014

TOUR REPORT

Leader: Tim Earl

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our first stop in Burgenland at Zicklacke when we saw so much – ruff, spotted redshank, little stint, knot, barred warbler, red-backed shrike and tree sparrow among others!
- Eight great bustards in one field giving quite close views. One bird was flushed by a saker falcon and flew off on our next visit. Six were seen on our last morning.
- Finding a stunning fire salamander on the Hohe Wand.
- Watching a long-legged buzzard attempting to steal prey from a marsh harrier. This was followed by the sighting of an imperial eagle and a flock of buzzards getting lift from a hedge on the Tadten plain.
- So many raptors in Hohenau and Marchegg: these included imperial and white-tailed eagles, red kite and sparrowhawk.
- The butterflies at Hohe Wand.
- Catching the Salamander train up to Schneeberg and back.
- The wide variety of lunches – café and picnic.
- Vast flocks of starlings swirling around the area as they were scared from one section to the next by farmers protecting their vines and grapes.
- The sunset on top of a tower from which we watched a short-eared owl and huge black bats.

DAILY DIARY

Saturday 30 August

To Illmitz and Zicklacke

We had an early start to the day, meeting at Heathrow's T1 at 7am. We arrived at Vienna Airport at 1.30pm local time and, after getting the minibus sorted, we drove to Podersdorf where we had delicious soup and bread in a café, spotting a few hooded and carrion crows along the road.

It was a short ride down to the Gasthof zur Post in Illmitz where we received a warm welcome from Otto and a tasting of the first white wine produced in the region this year. It was given a vote of approval (but not tasted by me as I was driving!). After settling in to our rooms we left for Zicklacke at 4.30pm. The shallow lake was teeming with birds – avocets and teal were immediately apparent. Closer examination revealed spotted redshanks (feeding with a similar action to the avocets), two little stints, singles of wood sandpiper, greenshank and little ringed plover plus many white wagtails. A few shovelers were teased out of the many teal and a beautiful, if distant, male marsh harrier was watched quartering the reed beds and flushing water-birds. Those sheltering under a thatched shelter spotted a few small birds in a native plane tree. These were eventually identified as tree Sparrows, a juvenile barred warbler and an immature red-backed shrike. A brown hare (or maybe a small roe deer) was spotted running into a thicket after being flushed by cyclists.

We finally left the spot, happy in our finds, and drove down to Illmitz Marina where a short walk in the (by now heavier) rain led to the discovery of a few black-headed gulls and goldfinches. A great white egret crossed the road in flight as we entered the car park.

We returned to the hotel well pleased with the start of what was a great holiday. Meeting for the call-over at 7pm we cracked a celebratory bottle of wine before a delicious supper.

Sunday 31 August

Tadten Plains, Einser Kanal (and Hungary!) Zicklacke, Winden-am-See reed walk

Teasing out birds is one of the jobs of a tour leader and my first challenge was to find great bustards on the well-known site near Andau. Two were located on the Tadten Plain and drooled over with excellent 'scope views from the top of a tower. I then found another two, also close by. We walked down the road and found a great view point from where I was able to find another one, then two more and on a departing scan counting all of them, the final total of eight birds... one more than a national park warden we spoke to had recorded earlier in the day! The views were great too. Even people who had seen great bustard in other parts of Europe said they were the best ever!

There was much else besides – yellow wagtails, a stonechat and at least six whinchats were flitting around with scores of white wagtails, lesser Whitethroats, looking stunning, were hopping around an elder bush close to the tower, several marsh harriers and buzzards were on the wing.

I had set off on foot to follow a feeding flock of birds moving down the road. These included long-tailed tits and I hoped to show people the white-headed form but without luck. We saw blue and great tits, lots of greenfinches and then a flash of yellow. Investigating I found a male golden oriole with a female close to it. These flopped across the road but were eventually joined by at least two juveniles. We had great views of probably three at any one time but there may have been six in the party. We spotted flycatchers, blackcaps (all males), at least two barred warblers and lots of goldfinches were also in the party. There had clearly been a fall of migrants.

A grey-headed woodpecker (we decided on seeing it again later) flew across as we drove down towards the Einser Kanal. It was a Syrian Woodpecker we found while walking across the canal-bridge into Hungary. The grey-headed popped onto the bare branch of a dead tree on the Austrian side later. Three mute swans, two

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great cormorants and a moorhen were all that was visible on the open water which was also entertaining two anglers and a kayak full of children and parents (none of whom were quiet!). Clearly coming here on a Sunday was a mistake.

Having added robin and kingfisher to our Hungarian lists we drove to Andau for a coffee before revisiting Zicklacke. Most of the birds seen yesterday were still on the lake but they had been joined by four mute swans while many of the waders had gone. Several gadwall were found but the hirundine flocks were still too distant to make out individual species.

After lunch close by we drove to Winden-am-See via an unplanned detour to walk the reed-track down to the Neusedler See's edge. It was quiet for birds but we did see plenty of marsh and common grass frogs. One of the group identified a smooth newt and many Roman snails, brown and black slugs were recorded. Birds were not absent. We heard bearded reedlings pinging out of sight, singing sedge and reed warblers, flushed several mallards and saw a few red-backed shrikes. A common redstart was flushed down the flower-rich path and we ate ripe peaches from trees which had grown from stones left by walkers before us.

It was a perfect end to a good day, or so we thought. That was before an excited waitress rushed up and pointed out two white storks on a nest near the hotel. "They should have gone by 25 August," she said, "but have stayed on for you." How sweet!

Monday 1 September ("white rabbit"!)

Eisenstadt Palace, Schönauer Teich fish ponds and lake, Hohe Wand

Highlight of the day was finding a fire salamander on the path at the bottom of Hohe Wand. We were all trying to get views of calling nutcrackers while he walked off slowly towards the bus and spotted the salamander, a great find.

It had been a difficult day with rain and a strong NW wind. I decided to visit the Hohe Wand where we found the expected shelter but no let up from the rain although it eased while we were out walking. A feeding party of birds included coal, blue and crested tit, goldcrest and several long-tailed tits including one or two of the white-headed form. I had never before seen a party which included both forms. We had found a few marsh tits and nuthatches a little earlier so the sightings were quite comprehensive. I write 'saw' and 'found' but the sightings were not that good. The birds were charging around at high speed and the rain made following them with binoculars difficult. The nutcrackers were obliging too. We heard them well but only a few glimpses or fly-past views were obtained.

The day's observations were to start at Eisenstadt Palace but a decision to have coffee first drew the morning out as we searched for a place which was open. Austria shuts down on a Monday. We cut out the palace's park (a few mallards were seen flying out) and went from coffee to fish ponds (angling lakes) at Schönauer Teich which was found with some difficulty. After admiring scores of coots, lots of common and five red-crested pochards, flocks of sand martins and swallows, we turned the bus around (with great difficulty) and drove off to the Hohe Wand for lunch.

For lunch, comfort food is what we enjoyed... cream of wild mushroom soup and a delicious chocolate cake. Our walk along the base of Hohe Wand was the best part of the day and we were all pleased to get back to Illmitz by 6.55pm. Supper was followed by the call-over and a look at pictures of the fire salamander.

Tuesday 2 September

Weissee, Taidten plains, Einser Kanal, Sandeck

Waders, raptors, ducks and hirundines feature in today's surprisingly good tally considering the rain which came down all day. We explored the Weissee area and found a shallow pond which had attracted good selection of waders to its reedy shallows. The main players were ruffs and reeves, some males still in their breeding colours, with at least six speckled wood sandpipers. But as we teased out the lesser chaps our list

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began to grow. There was a little ringed plover on the far side and then a tiny bird which was only marginally larger than a white wagtail. It was a Temminck's stint picking about at the base of reeds looking like a miniature common sandpiper, one of which was close by. A greenshank pushed off soon after we arrived and four spotted redshanks were joined by a mottled adult curlew sandpiper which was losing the last of its breeding plumage. A pair of garganey emerged from the reeds to delight us. Elsewhere in the area we saw two Montague's harriers quartering fields and our first grey herons were seen in force along with three of their purple cousins.

Our next visit was to the Tadten plains after a diversion to a favoured coffee-stop in Andau, one of the few establishments in the area that opens before 11.30am. The rain was pretty solid but we huddled together up one of the hides and proved that you have to ignore the weather to see birds... three great bustards were found distantly. The last was the subject of ruffian behaviour: someone in the group said that it would be good to see it fly. At that very moment the great bustard we were watching took off hurriedly and we wondered why. A saker falcon appeared immediately and made a half-hearted pass at the bird but was no match! Both disappeared in opposite directions pretty quickly.

A visit to the Einser Kanal was worthwhile with a little grebe putting on a show and a common shrew running across the path in front of us. It paid to return on a quieter day. Bigger stuff was to come, however, when we found a long-legged buzzard flashing its white under-wings as it descended on something in the distance. Suddenly a marsh harrier came up with prey in its talons which the long-legged buzzard took a fancy to. An aerial sortie took place but we were unable to decide on the victor as our attention switched to an imperial eagle which landed in a tree fairly close to us! This was great stuff. There were many marsh harrier and common buzzards on the move as the rain eased for a while, presumably having spent the previous day pinned down by the weather. However, we were surprised to find nine buzzards hanging on the wind around a hedge which was providing uplift. They were joined by a long-legged buzzard. What a show!

Lunch was enjoyed at the same café which had hosted our coffee stop, made the better for a couple of appfelstrudle slices... part of the eaters' five-a-day! Some folk fancied an early end to activities and were dropped at the hotel but six of us drove down to Sandeck where a mass of birds was waiting to excite us. Before we left the minibus I had found a couple of pygmy cormorants flying towards us – the first of at least 40 seen in an hour flying over the huge reed beds and dropping into unseen pools. A herd of Austrian white donkeys was attracting a vast swarm of swallows, sand martins and house martins which were feeding on flies kicked out of the grass by the donkeys. Some flies were even picked off the animals' coats while other swooped within an inch of us as they gobbled up their prey.

Nearby pools were guarded by a herd of water buffalo which, like the donkeys, were being used to keep valuable habitats open. The success of these measures could be seen in the number of ducks and geese present. The majority were gadwall, some in bright new breeding plumage, but we also found a few mallard and shovelers too. A flock of about 20 Red-crested pochard was sharing a bit of bank with five or six common terns.

A lone spoonbill which had been standing on one leg with its head tucked into its back-feathers decided to prove my identification by waving its spoon-bill at us for a while. Behind it over the reeds we saw a few whiskered terns and lots of black-headed gulls which came in to roost next to a few yellow-legged gulls. Wind and rain finally conspired to chill us and we called it a day, returning to the hotel with just one stop to pick up a few windfall walnuts.

Wednesday 3 September

Marchegg and Hohenu an der March

Thank goodness the rain had stopped! It was still windy and cool but those were good conditions to visit Marchegg National Park because they would inhibit the activities of the reserve's renown mosquitoes. (Actually, I learned from an 80+ woman client who was a world authority on biting insects that there are www.thetravellingnaturalist.co.uk

two mosquitoes from the *Aedes* genus and a third which was a *Culiseta* species!). We started our activities in Hohenau an der March by climbing a tower that overlooked two large but reedy fish-lakes. Sadly, the expected duck bonanza was not evident, only a few shovelers and mallards plus our first Moorhen to be seen well! A great spotted woodpecker kept returning to a walnut tree inches from the tower to peck at the ripening nut and give us splendid views. A Green Woodpecker gave us a good fly-past view too. It was the raptors which stole the show, however. They seemed to be coming up from across the Czech border – mostly buzzards and marsh harriers but also an eastern imperial eagle, and a feisty sparrowhawk which took on a couple of Buzzards for the fun of it. They gave us a good show and an excellent opportunity to sharpen our identification skills. We searched for more raptors down by the river but I was in the wrong place – we should have driven up to Ravensburg and gone down to the Muhlstrasse swimming pool area. However, that would have meant we missed wonderful views of a passing black stork, a stunning male golden oriole which sat in a tree top for 15 minutes and the delight of watching a flock of at least 20 yellowhammers which were bathing in a puddle from the day-before. Spotted flycatchers were hawking insects from above their heads!

We drove back to Marchegg National Park (having passed it earlier) to enjoy a self-made picnic under a walnut tree. The first of two white-tailed eagles drifted past us as we ate... bliss! A walk through the woodland revealed all sorts of things but it was generally quiet. Green and great-spotted woodpeckers were seen, flycatchers were quite numerous but it was difficult to sort pied from the possible collared flycatchers due to angles, leaves and twigs. A bee-eater was heard 'bubbling' on the way out but could not be found. A flock of at least 12 made up for that on the way back giving us distant but good views as they flew across a large clearing. Our second white-tailed eagle was spotted by one of the group. We admired the deserted nests of Marchegg's White Stork colony and in doing so found a hawfinch perched at the top of a dead tree giving splendid views. It was a great end to our visit and we returned to the hotel in time for a shower before the call-over and another delicious dinner.

Thursday 4 September

Hohe Wand revisited and Schneeberg

The weather forecast was accurate and we set off for a repeat visit to Hohe Wand and our alpine adventure via the Salamander Schneeberg railway. The former was superb in warm sunshine this time. The calling nuthatches refused to show again as did most of the other birds we heard but this was made up for with delightful butterflies, a preying mantis and field cricket. Birds did appear – we enjoyed watching about 30 crag martins and lazy kestrels hunting from posts. Fluts included knapweed and silver washed fritillary, rock grayling, small heath and several white species.

It was a short drive on to Puchberg where we collected pre-paid tickets for the salamander train which left punctually at noon. Forty minutes later we were at 6,000ft eating our picnic lunches and listening to ravens. "Were there two or just a single Raven that flew past," someone asked. It was difficult to tell in the swirling cloud around us but we need not have worried. More than 50 were seen later in our stay up there, fluttering around in the updrafts. It was an exciting sight.

The dwarf pines had small flocks of coal tits and the occasional chiffchaff, a small flock of water pipits eventually showed well as did a foraging ring ouzel. Less obliging were the six or eight lesser redpolls which flew past calling and the flock of alpine choughs which were seen distantly in flight. We remained on the main path long enough to see a herd of 16 chamois grazing on a nearby peak. Views kept coming and going as clouds passed but eventually we all saw them well through the 'scope.

We all met at the station where delicious hot chocolate was purchased before boarding the train back to Puchberg. We returned to the hotel I good time for a shower before dinner.

Friday 5 September

Sandeck early, Zicklacke, Langelake, Oberstinkensee, the east side of Neuseidleersee.

Our first early morning session was a cracker. The highlight was watching 40 bee-eaters in a leafless bush no more than 50 metres away from the bus. They were still there 30 minutes later when we returned on our way to the hotel for breakfast.

Illmitz marina was a little disappointing. I had hoped for sightings of marsh-birds but we saw only a few reed warblers, a couple of blackcaps and one or two tree sparrows. A party of serins failed to show well so eventually we drove off to Sandeck and the bee-eaters. Other birds down there included many ducks and geese, pygmy cormorants, great egrets and thousands of starlings. They really have been a feature of this holiday as we have seen them in huge swarms.

Breakfast was followed by a trip down to the lake-side at Zicklacke where we had good views of four shelducks and a lone pochard among the wildfowl, and a small flock of dunlin. One of the group found a small area with autumn ladies tresses in flower and pictures were duly taken.

Moving on to Langelacke in rising temperatures, we were greeted by the sighting of a whinchat and a few snipe flushed as we walked down to the second hide. Here we were amazed to find more than 1,000 greylags and hundreds of lapwing, species we had seen little of during the week. Indeed, Lapwing suddenly became numerous and I wondered if there had been an influx from somewhere. A white-tailed eagle was seen soaring distantly and a small flock of 10 curlews was found. A grey plover, still with the remnants of its breeding plumage was a good find for the area.

We retired to a nearby café for an expensive coffee before heading off to explore the Oberstinkensee area. Parking up, we walked back to a hide stopping to admire feeding greenshanks and wood sandpipers which looked strange up to their bellies in red weed at the lake's edge. Viewing from the hide we were instantly aware of a new bird for the trip: two black-winged stilts were feeding at the other side of an otherwise quiet lake. A family of little grebes was entertaining and a common sandpiper spent time chasing a Little ringed plover around a flock of coots.

Tummies were rumbling, however, and I left with those keen to walk in order to fetch the minibus. That meant we missed seeing the little crane which popped out of the reeds beneath the hide. The weather was so hot by now that birding was pointless so we returned to the hotel after lunch for a siesta leaving again at 5.15pm for a couple of hours in the cooler part of the day.

We returned to flooded flashes south of Podersdorf and were delighted with the results: three turtle doves, two little egrets and superb adult red-backed shrike were seen from the first tower among many of our by-now regular species. We stopped to admire the herd of Mangalitza pigs on our way to the second, much higher tower from which we enjoyed fabulous views over the area as the sun went down. Distant single greenshank and green sandpiper were seen through the 'scope and no fewer than six black-winged stilts were found. We whiled away the time dreaming of sundowners and dinner high above Neuseidle See until a short-eared owl was spotted quartering the fields and attracting the unfavourable attention of kestrels and hooded crows.

Our last sighting of the day was of a few large black bats which were flying high, occasionally swooping down to snatch a late-evening insect snack. It was a good way to end the day and our final evening in the national park.

We returned to the hotel where the chef had excelled himself with a spread which was far too much for us to eat: roast duck, medallions of pork rolled in peppercorns, ratatouille, boiled new potatoes, rice and deep-fried mushrooms. It was delicious.

Saturday 6 September

Graurinderkoppel early, Tadten plains (in the rain) again

I was hoping for great things from visiting Graurinderskoppel, an area which has excelled as an early morning site on previous trips. It was not to be, however. The birds which can be in the area in great flocks were not to be found. There were plenty of greylag skeins passing over, a few pygmy cormorants and several flocks of lapwings. I climbed a high border-post type of tower and saw an imperial eagle fly past below the level of a huge line of hay rolls. Which prevented anyone else from seeing it. We eventually walked a track which took us onto the marsh where there was a great herd of Hungarian grey cattle accompanied by a most contented-looking bull.

Several red-crested pochard were seen in a narrow stream over the bank of which one of the group spotted a stoat. A party of great and blue tits passed through following the hedge-line and tree sparrows were in bushes near a farm. Water levels in the area were high and this resulted in the expected birds going elsewhere, local birders told us. They were sifting through waders on a pond in the Weissee we had visited a few days earlier. We found another black-winged stilt, several dunlin, eight little and a Temminck's stint among the more usual species, so all was not lost.

After breakfast, packing, pictures and farewells we left for a sunny warm visit to the Tadten plains which were wet on our two previous visits. It started raining as we entered Tadten and that continued until we stopped for lunch!

Nevertheless, it was a great morning with a juvenile red-footed falcon seen well perched on a wire, three kingfishers and a grey-headed Woodpecker at the Einser Kanal, and six of the great bustards we had found on our first visit. A glorious male Montague's harrier completed the star turns. Lunch was at a favourite café where we celebrated the end of the tour with delicious appfelstrudel, before heading to the airport for our flight back to Heathrow.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES SEEN

BIRDS

PHEASANTS & ALLIES

Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

WILDFOWL

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Common Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca*

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

GREBES

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

STORKS

Black Stork *Ciconia nigra*

European White Stork *Ciconia ciconia*

IBISES, SPOONBILLS

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

HERONS, BITTERNS

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

CORMORANTS

Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus*

Great Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

FALCONS, CARACARAS

Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Red-footed Falcon *Falco vespertinus*

Eurasian Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Saker Falcon *Falco cherrug*

RAPTORS

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Family Phasianidae

Common, seen daily.

Family Anatidae

Our first big flock seen at Sandeck; more than 1,000 at Langelacke; a few at Oberstinkesee.

Four seen at Zicklacke, eight on the Einser Kanal; two south of Podersdorf.

Four seen on Zicklacke.

A few seen at Zicklacke; lots seen at Sandeck and Langelacke.

Common, a few seen most days.

A few seen at Zicklacke and Sandeck; a few at

Hohenau an der March; about 20 seen at Langelacke.

A pair seen on the lake at Weissee.

Large numbers seen at Zicklacke; big flocks in flight seen at Sandeck; lots seen on Langelacke.

Five seen at Schönauer Teich fish ponds and lake; about 20 seen at Sandeck; four seen at Graurinderkoppel.

More than 50 seen at Schönauer Teich fish ponds and lake; one seen on Zicklacke.

Family Podicipedidae

One seen at Einser Kanal; three on Oberstinkesee.

Four flew past on our early morning visit to Sandeck.

Family Ciconiidae

One seen at Hohenau an der March.

Two seen on a nest in Illmitz; this rose to three individuals but they had dropped to two by Saturday.

Family Threskiornithidae

One seen at Sandeck.

Family Ardeidae

Took a while to get started but common, seen several days.

Two seen near the Weissee; two seen at Sandeck; two near seen at Hohenau an der March.

One seen Illmitz marina; two seen on the Winden reed walk; 15 seen at Sandeck; a few seen near Hohenau an der March; three south of Podersdorf.

Two south of Podersdorf.

Family Phalacrocoracidae

Lots seen flying over and dropping into pools in the reeds at Sandeck.

Two seen at the Einser Kanal; two flew past at Illmitz marina.

Family Falconidae

Common, seen daily.

One 'fly-past' in bad light at Oberstinkesee; an immature bird seen near the Tadten plains.

One seen on our drive to Hohe Wand.

One took a half-hearted pass at a Great Bustard on the Tadten plains, flushing the bird.

Family Pandionidae / Accipitridae

One seen near Hohenau an der March.

White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	Two immature birds seen at Marchegg NP; one immature seen at Langelacke.
Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	Abundant, seen daily.
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	Two seen near the lake at Weissee.
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	One seen near Podersdorf; one seen at Hohenau an der March; one seen at Langelacke.
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	Common, seen daily; a flock of nine or 10 seen on the Tadten plain; several migrating trough at Schneeberg.
Asian Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	One seen on the Tadten plains, another at Hohenau an der March; one seen at Graurinderkoppel.
BUSTARDS		
Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	Family Otidae Eight seen south of Andau; three on the next visit including one which was flushed by a mobbing Saker Falcon; six on our last visit.
RAILS, CRAKES & COOTS		
European Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	Family Rallidae One heard squealing at Illmitz marina.
Little Crake	<i>Porzana parva</i>	One seen at Oberstinkersee.
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	One seen on the Eisner Kanal; one at Hohenau an der March.
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	More than 100 seen at Schönauer Teich fish ponds and lake; eight seen at Hohenau an der March.
STILTS, AVOCETS		
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Family Recurvirostridae Two seen on Oberstinkersee; six south of Podersdorf; two seen at Graurinderkoppel.
Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	Large numbers (100+) seen at Zicklacke; a few at Weissee; one seen on Oberstinkersee.
LAPWINGS & PLOVERS		
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Family Charadriidae One seen near Podersdorf; one on the Tadten plains; hundreds seen on Langelacke; lots south of Podersdorf.
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	One seen on Langelacke.
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	Two or three seen on Langelacke.
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Two seen at Zicklacke; two seen on Langelacke.
WADERS		
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Family Scolopacidae Three seen on Langelacke; several seen at Graurinderkoppel.
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Eight seen in flight near Neuseidle.
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Ten seen on Langelacke.
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Several seen at Zicklacke; a few seen on the lake at Weissee.
Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	One seen at Zicklacke on the lake at Weissee; a few seen on Oberstinkersee.
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	One seen from the high tower south of Podersdorf.
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	One seen at Zicklacke and at lake Weissee; one seen on Oberstinkersee.
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Two seen at Zicklacke; at least six seen on the lake at Weissee; a few seen on Oberstinkersee.
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	One juvenile seen at Zicklacke.
Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>	Two seen at Zicklacke; one on the lake at Weissee; there were eight on our last visit.
Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>	One seen on the lake at Weissee; two were seen there on our last visit.
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	About 20 seen on Zicklacke.
Ruff <i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Several seen at Zicklacke; about 20 on the lake at Weissee.	
GULLS & TERNS		
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>	Family Laridae Common, seen daily.
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Common, seen daily.

Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Five roosting
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>	A few seen over the reeds
PIGEONS & DOVES		Family Columbidae
Common Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Common, seen daily.
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	One seen on the Hohe Wand.
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common, seen daily.
European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Three seen south of Podersdorf.
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Common, seen daily.
OWLS		Family Strigidae
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	One seen from the big tower south of Podersdorf.
KINGFISHERS		Family Alcedinidae
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	One seen at the Einser Kanal on two visits, one seen south of Podersdorf, three at the Eisner Kanal on our last stop.
BEE-EATERS		Family Meropidae
European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	About 12 seen at Marchegg NP; 15 over the hotel early on Thursday; 40 in a leafless bush at Sandeck were one of the trip highlights; about 25 flew past us while we were in a tower hide on the Tatten plains.
WOODPECKERS		Family Picidae
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	Two seen at the Einser Kanal; one in Illmitz; one seen at Sandeck.
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	Several seen at Hohenau an der March and Marchegg NP.
European Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	One seen at Hohenau an der March, another at Marchegg NP.
Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>	One seen at the Einser Kanal on two occasions (in the same tree!); one seen in Illmitz.
SHRIKES		Family Laniidae
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	Common, seen daily.
FIGBIRDS, ORIOLES		Family Oriolidae
Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	At least six seen south of Andau; one seen at Hohenau an der March.
CROWS, JAYS		Family Corvidae
Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	Two seen south of Andau; one seen at Hohenau an der March; one near Hohe Wand.
Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	One seen near Vienna airport; two seen at Hohenau an der March; one near Hohe Wand
Spotted Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga caryocatactes</i>	Several heard, a few glimpsed at Hohe Wand.
Alpine Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>	A small flock seen distantly, one well by LD.
Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Two seen in Winden.
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	About 20 in a field near Hohe Wand; a similar number outside Hohenau an der March.
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	Common, seen daily.
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Common, seen daily.
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Two seen near Podersdorf; more than 50 on Schneeberg.
TITS & CHICKADEES		Family Paridae
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	A few glimpsed at Hohe Wand.
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>	Five few glimpsed at Hohe Wand; lots in the dwarf pines on Schneeberg.
European Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	One seen at Hohe Wand.
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	Common, seen daily.
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	A few seen almost daily.
SWALLOWS, MARTINS		Family Hirundinidae
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Lots seen at Sandeck; a few seen at Hohenau an der March.
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Abundant, seen daily.
Eurasian Crag Martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>	About 30 at Hohe Wand.

Northern House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Uncommon, a few seen daily including some in mixed flocks at Sandeck and Hohenau an der March.
BUSHTITS		Family Aegithalidae
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	A mixed party of white-headed and common LTTs seen Hohe Wand.
OLD WORLD WARBLERS		Family Sylviidae
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	One heard singing on the Winden-am-See reed walk.
Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	One heard another seen on the Winden-am-See reed walk; two or three seen at Illimitz marina.
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	A few scattered over the week.
Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	A few with Coal Tits on Schneeberg.; some heard elsewhere.
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	Common, one or two seen daily.
Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Ones or two seen in several places most days.
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	Three
BABLERS, PARROTBILLS		Family Timaliidae
Bearded Reedling	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	Several heard on the Winden-am-See reed walk.
GOLDCRESTS, KINGLETS		Family Regulidae
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	About six seen Hohe Wand.
NUTHATCHES		Family Sittidae
Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	Two seen at Hohe Wand; a few seen at Hohenau an der March.
STARLINGS		Family Sturnidae
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Abundant, huge flocks seen daily.
THRUSHES		Family Turdidae
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	A male seen on Schneeberg.
Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	One or two seen daily.
FLYCATCHERS		Family Muscicapidae
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	One heard at the Einser Kanal; one heard at Hohe Wand; two seen on Schneeberg.
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	A few seen on roof-tops in villages; common on Schneeberg.
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	One seen on the Winden-am-See reed walk.
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	Six seen south of Andau; six seen at Hohenau an der March; one seen on Langelacke.
Eurasian Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	One seen south of Andau.
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	One seen near the lake at Weissee; one seen at Sandeck.
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	A few seen some days; five on the Tadten plains; a few at Hohenau an der March; one seen at Sandeck.
European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	One seen on the Tadten plains; a few in Marchegg NP.
SPARROWS		Family Passeridae
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Common, seen daily.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Fairly common, seen almost daily.
ACCENTORS		Family Prunellidae
Duncock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Lots seen on Schneeberg.
WAGTAILS & PIPITS		Family Motacillidae
Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	A few seen on the Tadten plains; two or three over the Illmitz marina.
White Wagtail (Pied Wagtail)	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Abundant, scores seen daily.
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>	About six seen on Schneeberg.
FINCHES		Family Fringillidae
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	Two males seen at Marchegg NP.
European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	A small party seen at Illmitz marina: leader only birds.
European Greenfinch	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	Common, seen daily.
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	Abundant, seen daily.

Lesser Redpoll	Carduelis cabaret	A small flock seen badly as they flew past us on Schneeberg.
Eurasian Linnet	Carduelis cannabina	One seen early on in the trip; four flew past at Langelacke.
Hawfinch	Coccothraustes coccothraustes	One seen at Marchegg NP.
BUNTINGS & ALLIES		Family Emberizidae
Yellowhammer	Emberiza citrinella	Abot 20 seen bathing in a puddle at Hohenau an der March.

MAMMALS

RABBITS & HARES		Family Leporidae
European Rabbit	Oryctolagus cuniculus	Many seen at Sandeck. burrowing in the sandy soil; one seen at Graurinderkoppel.
European Hare	Lepus europaeus	One seen at Zicklacke; lots seen at Sandeck; a few near Hohe Wand.
SQUIRRELS		Family Scuridae
Eurasian Red Squirrel	Sciurus vulgaris	Two individuals, both black morphs, seen at Hohe Wand.
DOGS & FOXES		Family Canidae
Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes	Singles seen near Illmitz, Winden-am-See, Hohe Wand.
OTTERS, WEASELS & BADGERS		Family Mustelidae
Stoat (Ermine)	Mustela erminea	One seen at Graurinderkoppel.
HEDGEHOGS		Family Erinaceidae
Western Hedgehog	Erinaceus europaeus	Three dor near Podersdorf.
MOLES & SHREW-MOLES		Family Talpidae
European Mole	Talpa europaea	Mole hills seen at Langelacke and at Graurinderkoppel.
SHREWS		Family Soricidae
Common Shrew	Sorex araneus	One seen running across the road as we approached the Einser Kanal.
PIGS Family Suidae		
Eurasian Wild Boar	Sus scrofa	Rootings seen at Marchegg NP.
DEER		Family Cervidae
Western Roe Deer	Capreolus capreolus	Common, seen daily.
CATTLE, ANTELOPE, SHEEP & GOATS		Family Bovidae
Chamois	Rupicapra rupicapra	A herd of 16 seen on Schneeberg.

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

SALAMANDERS		Salimandridae
Fire Salamander	Salamandra salamandra	One in the Hohe Wand.
NEWTS		Family Salamandridae
Smooth newt	Lissotriton vulgaris	One found on the Winden marsh track.
TOADS		Family Bufonidae
Common toad	Bufo bufo	One seen at Langelacke.
TREE FROGS		Family Hylidae
Common Tree Frog	Hyla arborea	Two or three heard Einser Kanal.
FROGS		Family Ranidae
Common (Grass) Frog	Rana temporaria	Lots seen on the Winden-am-See reed walk.
Marsh (Lake) Frog	Rana ridibunda	Some on the Winden-am-See reed walk; four on a mossy log in Marchegg NR; one seen at Langelacke.
CARP fam		Family Cyprinidae
Crucian Carp	Carassius carassius	Lots seen jumping at Schönauer Teich fish ponds and lake; a few at Hohenau an der March.

FLUTS & MOTHS

SKIPPERS

Small skipper

Thymelicus sylvestris

SWALLOWTAILS

Southern festoon

Zerynthia polyxena

WHITES & YELLOWS

Large White

Pieris brassicae

Small White

Pieris rapae

Marbled White

Melanargia galathea

BRUSH-FOOTED BUTTERFLIES

Comma

Polygonia c-album

Red Admiral

Vanessa atalanta

Peacock Butterfly

Inachia io

Silver-washed Fritillary

Argynnis paphia

Knapweed Fritillary

Melitaea phoebe

BROWN BUTTERFLIES

Rock Grayling

Hipparchia hermione

Meadow Brown

Maniola jurtina

Small Heath

Coenonympha pamphilus

HAWK-MOTHS

Hummingbird Hawk-moth

Macroglossum stellatarum

Family Hesperidae

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Family Papilionidae

Seen at Tadten plains.

Family Pieridae

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Family Nymphalidae

One seen at Oberstinkesee.

Seen at Einser Kanal.

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Family Satyridae

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Seen at Hohe Wand.

Family Sphingidae

One seen in a flower bed in Podersdorf.

OTHER TAXA

SNAILS

Roman Snail

Helix pomatia

Field Cricket

Gryllus campestris

European Preying Mantis

Mantis religiosa

Brilliant Emerald Darter

Somatochlora metallica

Family Helicidae

Common throughout the area, seen most days.

One seen at Hohe Wand.

One seen at Hohe Wand.

One at Oberer Stinkersee.