

Hungary

Wildlife for Leisure Greentours Trip Report

24th – 31st May 2013

Led by, Gabor Orban and Amanda da Rocha

Daily report and systematic lists by Amanda da Rocha.



Day 1 Friday 24th May Arrival and transfer Kondor Tanya

England was wet and gloomy when most people left for Budapest, but in the mist a bit of sunshine shone for Amanda in the form of a Yellow Wagtail. Once we were all assembled at Budapest airport it was a two hour journey to the Tanya. Hopefully there would be some birthday cake left. In fact there was a bit more than that, we were greeted with hot soup and a delicious traditional meal of potatoes and beef, which melted in the mouth, a welcome change from airport snacks.

Kondor Tanya is based in the heart of Kiskunság National Park, settled amongst woodland environs. The accommodation is based in traditional style Hungarian thatched-roof buildings; the comfortable rustic atmosphere is topped off with typical Hungarian cuisine, making the experience truly unique.

Day 2 Saturday 25th May Kondor Environs - Kumpuszda

Kiskunság National Park is the second oldest national park in Hungary, established in 1975. The park lies between the rivers Danube and Tisza. The area is a mosaic pattern landscape, consisting of bogs, marshes, salt lakes and dry grassy plains. The great plain steppes of the Upper- Kiskunság is called Puszta, a large saline lowland, referred to as the Great Hungarian Plain, home to the largest population of Great Bustard in Europe.

The morning dawned and some of the group were up and out to listen to the musical flutings of the Golden Orioles. However, Brian got a bit of a surprise when a Night Heron flew by, rather than Golden Orioles that were bursting into life around the poplar plantations around the lodge. For those who had a lie-in the melodies of the morning were from the Chaffinches, Common and Black Redstart, who were in the busy process of feeding their broods. A nest of Black Redstart was underneath the eaves of the porch, so we would have to watch this to see if we could catch the moment the chicks fledged.

Once breakfast was over, people were keen to get out and explore this wooded green haven. The sun was shining and we slowly made our way along the sandy track towards the lake. A pair of Bee-eaters flew around, before landing on some tall trees, where everyone got good views of them through the telescope. A nest was also found along the track, a surprise to many that it would be so low, actually on the footpath.

It was while we were exploring this nest hole, that a raptor was noticed flying low. It was a Honey Buzzard, in fact it was joined by three others, showing a variety of plumage phases, and then a Common Buzzard joined the circle, allowing an excellent comparison between the species.

With the sun shining and temperatures starting to climb, butterflies were on the wing, and with a very floristic meadow in which to feed, the group became scattered in search of anything interesting. Tina headed off and disappeared to sit and enjoy the scene before her. The rest of the group got stuck in to identifying and photographing the various butterflies. Several Queen of Spain Fritillaries bounced around the wood-land edge, while a copulating pair of Eastern Bath White hung quietly on Hungarian Milfoil, as we poured over them to get a classic picture of the mating ritual, while a Granville Fritillary caused frustration in the group as it would not settle.

The meadow was awash with different shades of yellow particularly from *Tetragonolobus maritimus* – Yellow Dragon's-teeth, and Yellow-rattle. Later in the month the colour would

change to the pink shades of Common Restharrow that was just coming out, but abundant across the meadow. The feathery heads of *Stipa borystherica* swayed in the breeze, and gorgeous stands of *Tragopogon pratensis* stood proudly opening up in the sun.

Andy was the only one to make it to the reedbeds, or where the lake was, as the rest of us got too distracted with the variety of insects that were on the wing, such as the clouds of *Lestes barbarus* delicately suspended on a shrubby bush. This species and its closely related cousin *Lestes viridis* gave the group a great deal of discussion at night when reviewing the day's photos, due to the small differences between them, and close examination showed that both species had been present. We walked back to the Tanya for an al-fresco lunch, before heading out in the vehicle for our afternoon's exploration of the area. We didn't travel too far before turning off along a sandy track and stopping next to a horse field, where the delightful European Suslik lived. A Montagu's Harrier floated low overhead as we all got out of the vehicle, before perching on one of the wooden posts along the fence.

Several Suslik's were spotted chasing around the field, before we could get some good views of this overgrown ground squirrel sitting outside a burrow close to the fence. In the meantime, the tempting colourful washes of flowers in the field next to us, proved too much for some of the group, and left the cheeky Suslik to admire the white swathes of *Anthemis ruthenica*, which were interspersed with spikes of Common Bugloss, one or two of which were a ruby pink rather than blue. Corn Poppy and *Carduus nutans* heads rose above the white mat, as though they were surveying the scene below. It was all topped off by the subtle red heads of the dying *Bromus* grass, where on closer inspection a Common Blue was resting, just posing to be photographed.

Moving on along the track we came to another wonderful sight of colour, not from the plants this time but a small colony of Bee-eaters, where everyone eagerly got out of the bus in pursuit of the perfect picture. After a while, we moved on, crossing a field of dappled pink and blue from the drooping heads of *Carduus nutans*, and stands of *Salvia pratensis* towards the village church. Rollers called and perched on the over-head wires, but it was the small plantation that caused the greatest stir, in that Andy had been watching a Golden Oriole on a nest. So we all went back to see if we could get views, as it was close to the edge of the path. However, we had brief glimpse of a Golden Oriole, but the nest actually belonged to a Lesser Grey Shrike, so it begs the question of why was the Golden Oriole there?

Time had passed and we had to leave this interesting activity between the two birds, and head back to the Tanya. The day ended with an evening glow that gave a serene appeal to the meadow scene we were driving through. It was too enchanting to pass by, and we stopped to admire the captivating light on the poppies that decorated the roadside verge which accentuated a vividness to the red-heads. It was quite beautiful.

Day 3 Sunday 26th May Tiszaalpár - Tőserdő Area

The grey sky told us all it was not going to be a day for butterflies. The clouds rolled around the sky, creating white patches as we made our way to the SE region of Kiskunság National Park near the Lower Tisza floodplains, the Spark and the Alpári-meadow, which is commonly known as the Tőserdő. The journey to the area took us through the interesting city of Kecskemét, with its collection of splendid masterpieces of Art Nouveau architecture, and mishmash buildings of traditional and modern.

Our first stop was at Tőserdő Forest, an important area for Grey and Black Woodpeckers. The woodland was predominantly Oak-Ash with beautiful stands of White Poplar and

Aspen, the foliage of which was very lush green making birding very hard. Gabor had told us that the previous week the forest had been flooded, and the nearest water was 5 kms away. This was unusual for this time of year, as May and June are supposed to be the driest part of year, but not this year. In fact a week after we got back, Hungary was witnessing serious flooding, that hadn't been seen since 2006.

The sky had brightened up and Nightingale sang from the bushes to lift our spirits. Andrea found our first woodpecker – Green, after which she went in search of a distant Hoopoe calling. We started to make our way along the woodland path, listening hard for any call other than of Great Tit and Chaffinch. An odd call or drumming could be heard, but no movement. People were also distracted by the amount of Edible Snails that littered the wet area, and picturesque arrangement of the various fungi that adored the deadwood. Probably due to the weather the woodpeckers were staying low, although we did get a glimpse and heard the Black Woodpecker. Our best views were of Great Spotted Woodpecker and for some of the group views of the rare Lesser Spotted Woodpecker back at the vehicle. There were also some interesting plants as we were slowly walking along the path, such as the attractive Sanicle, Solomon's Seal and the extraordinary Birthwort, but no Spanish Festoon caterpillars chewing the leaves. Two hours had passed fairly rapidly and with the first few raindrops we all got back into the mini-bus and headed for our lunch spot beside the Baroque Catholic Church at Tiszaalpár, which overlooks the very wet Kolon Alpári-meadow and a very large ox-bow lake.

Lunch was eaten while trying to spot the many water birds on the distant lake, and avoid the Whiskered Terns that were bouncing along the ridge in front of us. From this vantage point we could watch the various waterbirds, Spoonbills, Great White, Squacco and Purple Herons, flying back-and-forth along the lake, while Common and Pygmy Cormorants were either basking or preening themselves on the bare dead branches sticking out of the water. In the water below, Pochard, and Mallard ducked and dived, while the large numbers of Coot were congregating for their annual meeting. Suddenly, the air above and around us was filled with tweets and chatting from a large group of Swallows and House Martins, indicating that the dark weather front we could see would be upon us, and rain called play.

We made our way back, with Gabor giving us a bus tour around the city of Kecskemét and its notable tourist features, before a brief stop at the supermarket to replenish food supplies or snacks. The route back took in some agricultural tracks, where very wet soggy bee-eaters, rollers and Corn Buntings sat on the wire, trying to dry out. Unfortunately, or fortunately we came to a piece of road, where the bus could not traverse, so we had to turn back. The colour of the sky now, accentuated the colours of the same soggy bee-eaters and rollers we had just past, giving them an amazing vivid colour. However, it was a shout from Amanda to stop that created a bit of excitement. In the distant a Marsh Harrier was mobbing something big on the pylons that looked like an eagle. In fact, it was a juvenile White-tailed Eagle, it looked very wet, and unhappy about being mobbed, but we were all very happy to be watching this spectacular bird and it had stopped raining, what a superb way to end a day.

Day 4 Monday 27th May Fishponds – Kigyos Channel – Böddi-szék

It was a day of contrast and changeable weather. The white sky had returned for this morning's activity, as we headed out to a riparian vegetation channel, and fishpond complex that is used by fishermen. The day was cool but we could hear the birds singing, particularly Nightingales, as we got out of the van, and a Purple Heron flew overhead. We took a slow

walk towards one of the fishponds, scanning the area for any signs of life from invertebrate kind.

The starling Scarlet Darter was the first Odonata to be spotted, a stunning male of this species was resting on a reed, but it soon took flight, never to be seen again. After which, females of Black-tailed and White-tailed Skimmer were stalked, the latter resting so that you could not resist photography. The demure White-legged Damselfly was another attractive species. All this activity was happening underneath the nest-building of a Penduline Tit that was causing a flurry of excitement amongst the photographers in the group.

However, it was while we were busy scrutinising these invertebrates when a movement over the pond caused the greatest excitement. It was a male Black Woodpecker and it had landed on the opposite tree, investigating what looked like a nest hole, how exciting. We all wanted to see this bird, which gave some excellent views as it probed and knocked around the large tree. Eventually, we all headed towards the tree for a closer look at the bird, but it had already gone. Further investigation of the nest-hole, did not show any activity, but Andy found some other kind of bird activity as he watched a Nightingale go in-and-out of its nest, and again all underneath a Penduline Tit nest, which was lower down than the previous one.

An impromptu stop was made en route for a White Stork as it stood on the road and slowly walked off into the side fields. We stopped a bit further to investigate a lake, where Whiskered Terns bounced around calling, suddenly a pair of Black-necked Grebes were pointed out in their wonderful breeding plumage. Another bonus was the young chicks next to them, trying to get a free ride. Garganey and Ferruginous Duck were also spotted feeding in the grassy water edges. This was also the place to find Red-footed Falcon, and two pairs were recorded, hovering in search of food.

Our stomachs were starting to rumble as we moved on to puszta of Sós-ér and Böddi-szék, part of the sodic chain of lakes in the Kiskunság, covering over 700 hectares, and of international importance for wildfowl and shorebirds. It is the only place to find breeding Kentish Plover in Hungary, unfortunately we didn't see any, and apparently they haven't bred here for some time. The wind had got up, and was bringing in a chill, so Gabor turned the vehicle around to protect us from the wind. Lunch was a hearty feast ending with some very addictive chocolate wafer biscuits, but there was a bit of a sandwich barter war between Amanda and Tina, because for some reason Tina's sandwiches had appeared in Amanda's bag? This debate took our minds off of the impending weather. It was clear we would have to move back into the van to sit out the passing shower.

After a few minutes the threatening skies passed over and we took the opportunity to walk off some of the lunch. The group scattered to see what was around after the rain. The view from the bird lookout was spectacular with the broody dark sky and rolling clouds underneath contrasted with the startling white of Spoonbill and Great White Egret as they flew by the tower. Avocets and Black-winged Stilt prodded and Garganey dabbled along the nearby marshy shores, to the background of the slow tones of Fire-bellied Toads, while a small flotilla crêche of Shelduck, eagerly followed the adult birds in the shallow waters. Another five minutes of absorbing the tranquil view and scanning for Stone Curlew was had before we moved on.

A brief stop was made again at the lake where we heard more Fire-bellied Toads and a Purple Heron popped its head up among the reeds to see what was going on. Exploring the meadows next to the road produced some nice spikes of Bug Orchid, and picturesque views with a poppy foreground against a threatening sky, giving the meadow colours an intense vibrancy.

Travelling through the varied landscape, White Storks were sitting on nests wherever possible in the small villages, telegraph wires or on purpose-built towers, and a sudden stop from Gabor allowed us to watch a close pair as they greeted each other with the ritual bill clapping. The afternoon ended investigating a damp sedge marsh meadow, where small colonies of Marsh Lax-flowered, Bug and Marsh Orchids were interspersed across the field and the sunshine along the water's edge was from the *Iris pseudacorus*. Heading back Marsh Harriers quartered over the fields and reedbeds. Lesser Grey and Red-backed Shrikes averted our views from the mini-bus, and Corn Buntings sang from wooden posts. However, the vehicle did stop for an obliging Little Owl, before we ended the day with another interesting Hungarian traditional meal.

Day 5 Tuesday 28th May Kumadacs - Kun Hill - Bugyi Area

A brief spell of moth identification after breakfast with Colin made everyone forget about the gentle sprinkle of water from above. Everyone was busy, either identifying or photographing the various moths from last night's trap, with such beauties as Small Elephant Hawkmoth *Catoptria falsella*, a species of Puss Moth, Riband Wave and Cream-spot Tiger, who could resist.

Eventually we had to leave as we were heading to the great dry plains and grassy hummocks of the Puszta, near Bugyi, but not before a stop at a cemetery. The cemetery is unusual in that it is in the middle of nowhere, it is situated in a large grassy field and for the next hour various species were being photographed or watched. Gabor showed us an area where earlier in the month a huge sward of Dwarf Iris were flowering, which would have been a sight, all that remained of their presence now, were the dying leaves. It would have been a wonderful sight against the backdrop of the yellow irises sparkling in the wet flush below the cemetery mound.

The temperature was starting to rise and with it so were the butterflies with Small Heath, Eastern Bath White, Silver-studded Blue and Common Blue, on the wing. Green Lizards scuttled among the grassy vegetation, while a flock of colour erupted around some of the group in the form of 30+ Bee-eaters wheeling and bubbling before heading off over the meadow. Flowers included Common, Long-headed and the demure Prickly Poppy which adorned the area around the graves. The grassy meadow held a mixture of flowers, such as Yellow Rattle, Meadow Clary, *Astragalus onobrychis*, Hungarian Milfoil, Ox-eye Daisy, small swathes of the charming Bug Orchid, and large specimens of *Silene italica* subspecies *nemoralis*, a bit of a rarity in Hungary, all of which punctuated the grassy landscape.

Moving on we headed to a grassy mound where we spend lunch and part of the afternoon searching for the elusive Great Bustard. The grassy hummocks gave an excellent vantage point to scan the massive steppe plain for this species, and from the hummock we could also see just how flat the steppe area was. Unfortunately nothing, but we had some superb views of Marsh Harriers quartering, Yellow Wagtails and Hobby at eye-level. Phil had wandered down to a sheltered spot away from the wind in search of butterflies. His wanderings paid off with the gorgeous Adonis Blue, the only sighting for the trip.

We all reconvened for tea and biscuits, before continuing our journey, in fact just another 200 yards as Brian had spotted a Suslik next to the road verge, it was then another 200 yards stop for a superb view of a very low-flying Eastern Imperial Eagle over our heads. Below a female Roe Deer bounced through the long grass, followed by a darling young fawn close at her heels, lovely.

The afternoon was spent in search of Great Bustards, heading for the more open grounds of the plain, albeit a brief stop for Little Owl, after an excellent spot by Gabor. Finally, we all were out scanning the open countryside where the open sky, now with blue patches reached for miles. Amanda had spotted a couple of raptors flying low, and they landed in some distant bushes. With the telescope on them, it turned out to be a White-tailed Eagle and an Imperial Eagle, and they were sharing the same bush, what a contrast. A distant Bittern called, Black-tailed Godwits and Lapwings called and displayed in front of us in the wet marshy meadow. The small flock of nearby Mediterranean Gulls were a delightful distraction from scanning the horizon for bustards.

Still no bustards, so we slowly followed the dirt-tract between the reed-bed area and marshy meadow, until something very large took flight from the field and we came to a halt. It was a Great Bustard and it was flying next to us. We pulled over and scanned the fields beyond, and behold two male Great Bustards were spied, starting to display. Although it was distant views the 'scopes proved to be invaluable and we all got good views.

Time was ticking on so we started our journey back, stopping for a smashing display of Beardless Iris. The weather had improved and the evening light gave a gorgeous golden glow to the Kondor meadows, tempting many to photograph the amazing colours, before heading for another excellent dinner.

Day 6 Wednesday 29th May Kondor environs - Lake Kolon

Any sign of rain was dispelled this morning as the temperatures soon soared and saw everyone taking off their jumpers and some into shorts. The morning was spent around the local lanes and woodland area, trying to creep up on Bee-eaters, or the larger fritillaries that were now on the wing and feeding on *Carduus nutans*. This species provided a favourite nectar source for Cardinals and Silver-washed Fritillaries. A Clouded Yellow species had Phil and Brian chasing after it, while Judith, Amanda and Andrea had their eye on the various large dragonflies that were now hawking around but would not settle. David was concentrating on the purple heads of *Carduus nutans* in hope of returning Cardinals. Andy had disappeared into the bushes, finding Sand Lizard, and Gabor was busy trying to reduce the population of American Milkweed that was running riot across the park. Everyone was engrossed in some sort of chasing activity and to the outsider this must have made a very strange scene.

Gradually, we made our way to an area of flowery fest, where Judith, Brian, Amanda and Andrea decided to walk along this splendid carpet of colour that lined the dirt tract, while the remainder of the group headed towards the Bee-eater colony to see if they could improve on some close up photography shots. The field verge was a paint palette of colour from the red of the poppies, subtle dashes of cornflower blue, sprays of yellow in a variety of shades, and all washed with whites. There was even a blush of pink from Corncockle that was just posing to be photographed. Walking through this amazing show, Bath White, Small Heath, Silver-studded Blue and a female White-tailed Skimmer added to the collective. Marsh Harriers quartered the fields, from where Quail called and Bee-eaters circled overhead. Lunch was enjoyed under the shade of the sweet smelly bush *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, the hum of bees harvesting the nectar added to the warm ambience of the day, and the colour ribbons of the Bee-eaters decorated the wires, what a way to spend a birthday.

We eventually pulled our way from this spot and headed for a completely different environment of river channels and plain fields. We had only just stepped out, when Brian

spotted a Little Bittern flying across the river channel; it did a fly-by later on as we wandered along the river-edge. The metal bridge gave a good advantage point to scan across the fields for any sign of Great Bustard, where a couple of males were seen in the distance. Close at hand was a hovering Red-footed Falcon and a Hobby chasing the wealth of dragonflies that were hawking along this large river channel. The bridge was an excellent place to watch these wonderful creatures weaving back-and-forth marking their territory, while the Swallows were nosily catching the gnats underneath the bridge. This was turning into a very good dragonfly day, with views of the larger species such as Lesser Emperor and Emperor to compare. A few of the group had wandered along the water's edge, spotting a Kingfisher and European Pond Terrapin, while Andy was transfixed with a greenfly laden thistle that was attracting all kinds of insects.

The afternoon ended with the group sitting on the end of a causeway looking over one of the oldest lakes in Hungary Lake Kolon as it appears in the first accounts of maps. It is one of the oldest areas within Kiskunság National Park. It is designated as a Ramsar site due to the importance of the wetland area, and there is no American Milkweed. Walking along the causeway, male Downy Emeralds fiercely patrolled their territory; Bearded Tits pinged around the reed-bed, while we listened to the low-tones of Fire-bellied Toads and noisy chorus of Marsh Frogs. Norfolk Hawk came to see what we were up to. It was while we were watching the first signs of evening roost that we witnessed a special moment, a pair of Marsh Harriers undertook a food-pass over the reed-beds. The male flew-in over the top of the reedbeds, where upon the female appeared from the reeds and the food (snake) was taken in a rolled manoeuvre away from the nest, before she flew off and descended down further along into the reeds. The unusual plant Greater Bladderwort was noted along the water's-edge as we walked back.

The journey back to the Tanya was uneventful, but after dinner, around dusk we headed out along the woodland track behind the Tanya, to an open area, where we waited to hear the churring of Nightjar. It wasn't long before we heard our first one, as well as Bittern booming in the distance. Gabor taped out the Nightjar, which gave some lovely bouncing silhouette moves before it landed in a nearby tree. In the twilight, and with the aid of a torch, we all could make out this enigmatic creature. We stayed around for a bit longer, to listen to the whirling of now, several males, and enjoy the incredible glowing blue-black sky what a way to end a remarkable day.

Day 7 Thursday 30th May Kondor Tanya - Kígyós Area - Apaj Area

The sound of patter on the window told us what the state of play would be today and thus, most of the morning saw us around a bush next to the lodge, taking photographs of various moths that Brian and Colin were busy identifying. The moth-trap had been put on last night, and there was a wealth of macro and micro moth goodies, as well as a troop of Great Diving Beetles circling the bottom of the trap, eating anything that was in their path. The contents of the trap, and tea, kept the group busy for most of the morning. Moth species that were getting everyone excited included six species of hawkmoths; these being Small Elephant, Spurge, Pine, Poplar, Bedstraw, and Eyed; as well as goodies like the gorgeous Lilac Beauty, Swallow Prominent and Chocolate-tip to name a select few. Before long we realised it was lunch-time, and it was taken under the shelter of the lodge, but fortunately it had stopped raining. Thus, after soup and sandwiches, we headed out to make the best of the dry weather, apart from Brian who was in his element and could not tear himself away from this wealth of fauna that lie close to his heart.

It wasn't long before we were all out of the van to watch a Hoopoe feeding young in the corner of a roof. Unfortunately, where the location of the van was the Hoopoe was not going to come back, so we moved on. The rest of the day was broken up with short stops of anything interesting, such as several Bee-eaters catching flies or stopping by a marshy reedbed where Spoonbills, Little Egrets, Avocets and Black-winged Terns were feeding. Phil also found a Northern Wheatear at this spot. A brief stop by the bridge to search for Stone Curlew turned into a 'one of those moments'. David had found a hanging Cardinal, and it was while we were watching this, that it happened. A very large bird flew above a very excited Amanda's head, who apparently was literally bouncing on the spot with excitement as she was pointing and shouting 'Great Bustard', much to the amusement of Judith. It was so low you could see its eye, but we hadn't seen it in the field we were scanning. It now flew off to the fields beyond.

Our last stop was at a lovely flowery filled marsh meadow in search of Early Spider Orchid, unfortunately none could be found. However, the group soon got absorbed into the delights of being able to slowly walk through a stupendous dazzling meadow, where the only sound was the natural sound of nature, as Bush Crickets spring out of our stride and Field Crickets striated around us. Phil had an adorable Green-underside Blue and Chestnut Heath, David was stalking a Sand Lizard, while Andy was fortunate to have a displaying Yellow Wagtail on the bush in front of him, while Amanda, Gabor and Judith searched among the flower species, which were wetting their enthusiasm, particularly with a new species for the trip, *Campanula sibirica*. Tina was enjoying just sitting and taking it all in. After a while it was time to move on and return to Kondor, where Brian had remained all afternoon sorting out the moths. Colin had given up around three, but Brian needed to finish the trap.

Day 8 Friday 31st May Danube River - Departure

It was a gorgeous morning with blue skies shining above as we walked out this morning, but unfortunately due to the past two wet days we were still unable to visit the Viper Centre. We also had to say goodbye to Brian who was catching an early flight, but he had time for a quick scout around the grassy meadows to remind him how wonderful they are, before we left him in the capable young hands of the female transfer driver. We did hear that he arrived safely and on time for his flight.

For the remainder of the group we headed towards the River Danube to try our luck in finding Lesser Purple Emperor. After the brief spell of rain, even with blue skies there was some rain, Gabor spotted a high flyer along the *Populus tremula*, but otherwise it was a no show. However, there was a beautiful deep coloured Comma and Barred Warbler to keep us amused, while we waited for the temperature to rise and for the sun to appear, but even then the butterflies were staying low.

After a tea-break we moved on to a site for Saker. There were distant views of a bird near the nest box, but otherwise it was staying distant. However, Amanda had a 'pièce de résistance', which was a surprise for everyone. She led the group stealth-like and quietly . . . up a small mound, and there just beyond the edge were a dazzling explosion of red, blue, and yellow, combined with a heavenly gentle call, we were watching a colour fest of Bee-eaters. For the next 30 minutes we were mesmerized by the spectacle in front of us. Well, after that, there was not much more that could beat such an awesome finish, and so we continued on our way to the airport. We said our goodbyes to Gabor and Andrea, and waited for our planes respectively. What a way to end a fantastic trip.

Summary

Across the week the weather was changeable, even during the day, when it rained it rained, but during the sunny spells we had some excellent sightings of a selection of fauna species. The accommodation was typical of a traditional farm lodge with very tasty Hungarian food. Apparently, even the 'Bull's Blood' and the local Merlot were up to the Hungarian standard. Despite the weather everyone enjoyed the trip, taking home with them different memories of the spectacular flowery feasts from verges to meadows and coloured treats of the winged kind.

Itinerary

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|-------|--------------------|---|
| Day 1 | Thursday 24th May | Arrival and transfer Kondor Tanya |
| Day 2 | Friday 25th May | Kondor Environs - Kumpuszda |
| Day 3 | Saturday 26th May | Tiszaalpár - Tóserdő Area |
| Day 4 | Sunday 27th May | Fishponds - Kigyos Channel - Böddi-szék |
| Day 5 | Monday 28th May | Kumadacs - Kun Hill - Bugyi Area |
| Day 6 | Tuesday 29th May | Kondor environs - Lake Kolom |
| Day 7 | Wednesday 30th May | Kondor Tanya - Kígyós Area - Apaj Area |
| Day 8 | Thursday 31st May | Danube River - Departure |

Systematic List Number 1 Reptiles and Amphibians

The taxonomic nomenclature and systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Reptiles and Amphibians of Europe, Arnold*. A total of seven species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

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|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Common Spadefoot Toad | <i>Pelobates fuscus</i> | common around Kondor Tanya, particularly at night |
| Fire-bellied Toad | <i>Bombina bombina</i> | unfortunately this species was only heard around water-edges (27 and 29) |
| Common Tree Frog | <i>Hyla arborea</i> | unfortunately this species was only heard at night, around Kondor Tanya |
| Marsh Frog | <i>Rana ridibunda</i> | a very common species around riparian channels and pools, often serenading us as we wandered around, while back at the Tanya, the pond were full of the tadpoles of this species, which are huge |
| European Pond Terrapin | <i>Emys orbicularis</i> | a lovely specimen of this species crossing the muddy track at Lake Kolon |
| Green Lizard | <i>Lacerta viridis</i> | this stunner of a species kept Andy busy, but eventually everyone in the group got to see this beautiful reptile over the course of the week |
| Sand Lizard | <i>Lacerta agilis</i> | recorded around dry sandy tracks and around the Tanya |

Systematic List Number 2 Birds

The taxonomic nomenclature and systematic order follows both that of Collins: Bird Guide 2nd edition. A total of 125 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

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| Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | recorded by water bodies (26 and 27) |
| Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | recorded by water bodies and marshy meadows across the trip |
| Shelduck | <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> | a rare bird for Hungary, common around the sodic lakes, Böddi-szék, SE of Kiskunsag National Park (27), and a pair around the afternoon lakes (30) |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | common, seen almost everyday |
| Shoveler | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | only recorded on the one day, around the sodic lakes, Böddi-szék, SE of Kiskunsag National Park (27) |
| Garganey | <i>Anas clypeata</i> | a lovely species, but only recorded on the one day, around the sodic lakes, Böddi-szék, SE of Kiskunsag National Park (27) |
| Pochard | <i>Aythya ferina</i> | recorded around water bodies (26 and 27) |
| Ferruginous Duck | <i>Aythya nyroca</i> | one or two individuals recorded in the mixed groups of wildfowl in the fishing ponds (27); and individuals flying over Lake Kolom (29) |
| Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | only recorded on the one day, around the sodic lakes, Böddi-szék, SE of Kiskunsag National Park (27) |
| Quail | <i>Coturnix coturnix</i> | this species was very vocal over the week, but never seen |
| Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> | common, seen almost everyday |
| Black-necked Grebe | <i>Podiceps nigricollis</i> | several birds, including young recorded on the sodic lakes around Böddi-szék, SE of Kiskunsag National Park (27) |
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | occasionally recorded across the trip around water bodies |
| Great Crested Grebe | <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> | recorded on the large lakes (26 and 29) |
| Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | recorded in small numbers once around the ox-bow lake in the Tóserdő area (26) |
| Pygmy Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i> | recorded in small numbers around the ox-bow lake in the Tóserdő area (26); and small numbers in the dead trees at Lake Kolom (29) |
| Common Bittern | <i>Botaurus stellaris</i> | this species was only heard rather than seen, mainly around the Kondor Tanya area and from the reed-beds near the grassy plains (25, 27 and 29) |
| Little Bittern | <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i> | Brian spotted this lovely species fly from the reeds to the other side of the bank, later on it gave the group a fly by as it circled around us (29) |
| Night Heron | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i> | recorded at the beginning of the trip, by Brian at Dawn (25); there after they were hiding along the river channels or flying over the fishponds (26 – 27) |
| Squacco Heron | <i>Ardeola ralloides</i> | recorded around the ox-bow lake in the Tóserdő area and Böddi-szék waters (26 and 27) |
| Little Egret | <i>Bubulcus ibis</i> | occasionally recorded around marshy areas (26, 27 and 30) |

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Great White Egret | <i>Egretta alba</i> | common around water bodies, seen everyday |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | common around water bodies, seen everyday |
| Purple Heron | <i>Ardea purpurea</i> | frequently seen around marshy areas over the trip |
| White Stork | <i>Ciconia ciconia</i> | common, seen everyday |
| Black Stork | <i>Ciconia nigra</i> | a small flock of at least seven birds were spotted circling over the grassy mound as we searched for Great Bustards (28) |
| Spoonbill | <i>Platalea leucorodia</i> | occasional sightings near large lakes (26, 27 and 30) |
| White-tailed Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> | Amanda spotted an immature perched on a large pylon, being mobbed by a Marsh Harrier (26); two more were seen separately around the lakes and plains, one of which was being mobbed by a Raven (28) |
| Eastern Imperial Eagle | <i>Aquila heliaca</i> | a couple of individuals were seen separately around the grassy plains, one even gave a low glide over our head (28) |
| Marsh Harrier | <i>Circus aeruginosus</i> | common, seen everyday |
| Montagu's Harrier | <i>Circus pygargus</i> | frequently seen quartering over farm land |
| Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | common, seen everyday |
| Honey Buzzard | <i>Pernis apivorus</i> | this species was only recorded on the first day around Kondor Lake, but there were four birds up in the air at the same time, giving everyone some good ID features, particularly when a Common Buzzard appeared near them (25) |
| Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | recorded the once on the first day (25) |
| Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | common, seen everyday |
| Red-footed Falcon | <i>Falco vespertinus</i> | this fantastic bird was a delight for the group and regularly seen over the week (27 – 30) |
| Hobby | <i>Falco subbuteo</i> | individuals occasionally recorded over the course of the week |
| Saker | <i>Falco cherrug</i> | distant views of a bird, as it flew around the nest area (31) |
| Moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | recorded around water bodies (25, 27 and 29) |
| Coot | <i>Filica atra</i> | common on large water bodies (26 – 27) |
| Common Crane | <i>Grus grus</i> | Andy was the only one to see a distant bird across the fields (25) |
| Great Bustard | <i>Otis tarda</i> | Hungary is renowned for this species, and our first views of this very large bird were distant scope views of males, starting to display (28 – 29); then a superb flyby of a bird, with a very excited Amanda jumping up and down pointing as it was only a few feet from her and Judith (30) |
| Avocet | <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> | recorded around shallow pool areas (27 and 30) |
| Black-winged Stilt | <i>Himantopus himantopus</i> | recorded around shallow pool areas (27, 29 and 30) |
| Lapwing | <i>Vanellus vanellus</i> | common, recorded everyday |
| Common Sandpiper | <i>Actitis hypoleucos</i> | only recorded on the first day flying over Kondor Lake (25) |
| Redshank | <i>Tringa tetanus</i> | frequently recorded over the trip |
| Black-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa limosa</i> | frequent sightings of this species in the latter part of the trip, mainly around marshy meadows (28 – 30) |
| Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | occasional individual calling over the grassy plains (27 and 28) |

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Black-headed Gull | <i>Larus ridibundus</i> | one common gull seen most days |
| Mediterranean Gull | <i>Larus melanocephalus</i> | several individuals of this striking gull around the plains, causing some great excitement in the group (28); an individual flyby in the afternoon around the lakes (29) |
| Yellow-legged Gull | <i>Larus cachinnans</i> | scattered records of this common gull (25, 27, 29 and 31) |
| Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | recorded near water channels and around ox-bow lake (27 – 29) |
| Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias niger</i> | one was spotted among the Whiskered Terns (26) |
| White-winged Black Tern | <i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i> | a gorgeous tern recorded around reed-beds, often in small numbers (27, 28 and 30) |
| Whiskered Tern | <i>Chlidonias hybridus</i> | commonest of all the terns recorded, seen wherever we visited a water body |
| Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | common and seen everyday |
| Woodpigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | common and seen everyday |
| Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | common and seen everyday in urban areas |
| Turtle Dove | <i>Streptopelia turtur</i> | this lovely dove rare in Britain, apart from Andy's garden, was recorded everyday across a variety of habitats |
| Cuckoo | <i>Cuculus canorus</i> | heard or seen everyday, mainly around reed-beds. We were fortunate to hear a female bubbling Lake Kolom (29) |
| Scops Owl | <i>Otus scops</i> | only heard the one night (24), but usual quite vocal in the evenings near Kondor Tanya |
| Little Owl | <i>Athene noctua</i> | this chunky little species is always a winner when it is perched close by, occasionally seen around rural buildings, including one individual giving some excellent views on top of a barn roof (27, 28 and 30) |
| Nightjar | <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> | we had excellent views of a male as it flew around our head churring, before landing in a gap on a nearby tree (29) |
| Swift | <i>Apus apus</i> | common and seen everyday |
| Hoopoe | <i>Upupa epops</i> | common and seen everyday |
| Kingfisher | <i>Alcedo atthis</i> | this species was watched whizzing back-and-forth at the ox-bow lake, lunch-time (26); some of the group had one fly along the river channel in the afternoon (29) |
| Bee-eater | <i>Merops apiaster</i> | this gorgeous bird was seen everyday, with a bit of a wow factor on the last day with over 50 pairs flying around us, sorry Brian |
| Roller | <i>Coracias garrulus</i> | another gorgeous bird, seen everyday |
| Black Woodpecker | <i>Dryocopus martius</i> | an elusive individual was drumming in the woodland area at Tiszaalpár (26); however, everyone got stonking views of this wonderful bird, as it flew across the fishponds and headed for a nest hole, where it remained for a while for people to get some stunning views (27) |
| Green Woodpecker | <i>Picus viridis</i> | occasional sightings of this species (25 – 27 and 29) |
| Great spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | the commonest recorded of the woodpecker species (26 – 28, and 31) |
| Syrian Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i> | Andrea spied this lovely species at Tiszaalpár forest (26) |

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|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Lesser-spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos minor</i> | fantastic views of this rare species in Britain for some of the group around the woodland area at Tiszaalpár (26) |
| Wryneck | <i>Jynx torquilla</i> | an elusive species, that was only heard on the one day (29) |
| Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | frequently seen on most days around the grassy plains and meadows |
| Crested Lark | <i>Galerida cristata</i> | recorded everyday around the grassy plains and meadows, often giving some excellent views, |
| Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | several individuals seen flying through on one day (29) |
| Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | recorded everyday |
| House Martin | <i>Delichon urbica</i> | recorded everyday |
| White Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba</i> | common and recorded everyday |
| Yellow Wagtail | <i>Motacilla flava</i> | recorded in the latter part of the trip particularly around the meadows (28 – 31) |
| Robin | <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | a nesting pair around the lodge |
| Nightingale | <i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i> | this elusive bird was seen and recorded regularly each day |
| Common Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i> | recorded everyday, as a pair had young around the Tanya |
| Black Redstart | <i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i> | recorded everyday around urban areas and particularly around the Tanya with young |
| Wheatear | <i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i> | although only recorded on a couple of days, this attractive bird gave the group some stunning views (25 and 30) |
| Whinchat | <i>Saxicola rubetra</i> | mainly recorded around the grassy meadows (28 and 29) |
| Stonechat | <i>Saxicola torquata</i> | common and recorded on most days |
| Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | around urban areas (26 and 28) |
| Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | frequent and recorded everyday |
| Barred Warbler | <i>Sylvia nisoria</i> | another interesting warbler that was mainly heard rather than being seen (26 and 31) |
| Blackcap | <i>Sylvia atricapilla</i> | heard or seen everyday |
| Lesser Whitethroat | <i>Sylvia curruca</i> | this charming warbler gave the group excellent views as it bounced around the willow near the Bee-eater area (25) |
| Sedge Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i> | heard or seen every day around reed-beds |
| Moustached Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i> | only heard around the reed-beds at Lake Kolom (29) |
| Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i> | one was heard singing from the reedy area (25) |
| Great Reed Warbler | <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i> | a common species around riverine vegetation over the week |
| Chiffchaff | <i>Phylloscopus collybita</i> | heard or seen most days over the trip |
| Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | unusual in that this species was only heard the one day (26) |
| Spotted Flycatcher | <i>Muscicapa striata</i> | mainly recorded around wooded areas and Kondor Tanya |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | heard or seen everyday |
| Blue Tit | <i>Parus caeruleus</i> | usually a common species, but only recorded over three days around the Tanya (25, 26 and 29) |

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|------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Bearded Tit | <i>Panurus biarmicus</i> | excellent views of this gorgeous bird from the reed-beds, while we were walking along the course way at Lake Kolom (29) |
| Penduline Tit | <i>Remiz pendulinus</i> | excellent views of this delightful species nest building around the fish-ponds (27) |
| Nuthatch | <i>Sitta europaea</i> | mainly recorded around wooded areas at the beginning of the trip (25 and 26) |
| Short-toed Treecreeper | <i>Certhia brachydactyla</i> | only a brief sighting of this species around the wooded area at Tiszaalpár (26) |
| Lesser Grey Shrike | <i>Lanius minor</i> | an attractive bird recorded everyday |
| Red-backed Shrike | <i>Lanius collurio</i> | a striking bird recorded everyday |
| Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | recorded everyday |
| Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | frequent sightings over the trip |
| Jackdaw | <i>Corvus monedula</i> | only recorded on the one day (27) |
| Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</i> | occasional recorded, mainly around cut meadows (27, 28 and 30) |
| Hooded Crow | <i>Corvus cornix</i> | seen every day in all habitats |
| Raven | <i>Corvus corax</i> | single individuals of this species and each on different days, where one was mobbing an Imperial Eagle (27 and 29) |
| Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | seen and heard everyday |
| Golden Oriole | <i>Oriolus oriolus</i> | the beautiful fluty song was heard every day, bursting open the morning at the dawn chorus, and we all got good sightings of this attractive bird by the end of the trip |
| House Sparrow | <i>Passer domesticus</i> | seen and heard everyday |
| Tree Sparrow | <i>Passer montanus</i> | seen and heard everyday |
| Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | seen and heard everyday |
| Linnet | <i>Carduelis cannabina</i> | surprisingly only recorded once around the agricultural plains (25) |
| Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | common, seen or heard everyday |
| Serin | <i>Serinus serinus</i> | this lovely little bird was only recorded once at one of the small villages (27) |
| Hawfinch | <i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i> | one was flying around the tree-tops as we were |
| leaving | <i>Kondor Tanya</i> | (28) |
| Corn Bunting | <i>Miliaria calandra</i> | seen and heard every day, singing from prominent posts around grassy meadows |

Systematic List Number 3 Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Butterflies of Europe*, Tolman and Lewington. Due to the unseasonal weather that Hungary was experiencing, butterfly species were low, but when recorded, species were often numerous. A total of 21 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | surprisingly only recorded on two days (25 and 31) |
| Eastern Bath White | <i>Pontia edusa</i> | this delightful species was the most abundant white across the trip, with some fantastic views of a pair mating (25, 28 and 29) |
| Clouded Yellow sp. | | a specimen of this family was seen flouncing around a small tussock hill, but unfortunately Brian wasn't quick enough to catch it (29) |
| Green-underside Blue | <i>Glaucopsyche alexis</i> | Phil found a lovely specimen resting in one of the floristic meadows (30) |
| Silver-studded Blue | <i>Plebejus argus</i> | a common and numerous species found in the florist meadows (27 – 29, and 31) |
| Brown Argus | <i>Aricia agestis</i> | several individuals were recorded across the meadows local to Kondor Tanya (25 and 29) |
| Adonis Blue | <i>Lysandra bellargus</i> | a very bright and spectacular butterfly but only recorded by Phil on one day within the meadow environ (28) |
| Common Blue | <i>Polyommatus Icarus</i> | a common and numerous species of the florist meadows (25, 27 – 29, and 31) |
| Painted Lady | <i>Cynthia cardui</i> | only recorded around the bee-eater meadows (29) |
| Comma | <i>Polygonia c-album</i> | a vivid bright individual delighted the group whilst we waited to see if any Purple Emperors would show after the rain (31) |
| Cardinal | <i>Argynnis pandora</i> | the commonest of the larger butterflies around woodland rides, with some smashing fresh individuals feeding on <i>Carduus nutans</i> , and David had one hanging from a leaf during a nature stop. |
| Silver-washed Fritillary | <i>Argynnis paphia</i> | a lovely individual around the meadows local to Kondor Tanya (25); one or two feeding with the Cardinal's on the <i>Carduus nutans</i> (29) |
| Queen of Spain Fritillary | <i>Issoria lathonia</i> | this easily recognisable species was the commonest of the fritillaries, recorded over a few days around flowery meadows (25, 29 and 31) |
| Granville Fritillary | <i>Melitaea cinxia</i> | after some hard scrutinizing of which fritillary this was, due to its lack of not staying around for identification, it was common and numerous across the meadows (25 and 29) |
| Meadow Brown | <i>Maniola jurtina</i> | common and recorded most days around grassy meadows |
| Large Heath | <i>Coenonympha tullia</i> | only recorded around the local meadows near Kondor Tanya (25 and 29) |
| Small Heath | <i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i> | common, seen most everyday |
| Chestnut Heath | <i>Coenonympha glycerion</i> | only recorded in the latter part of the trip (29 – 31) |

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|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Large Wall Brown | <i>Lasiommata maera</i> | a single individual of this species around the local meadows near Kondor Tanya (25) |
| Large Skipper | <i>Ochlodes venatus</i> | common, seen most days |
| Dingy Skipper | <i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i> | recorded twice over the trip (25 and 28) |

Systematic List Number 4 Dragonflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and systematic order follows both that of BHP – *Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe*, Klaas-Douwe B Dijkstra. A total of 13 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Southern Emerald Damselfly | <i>Lestes barbarus</i> | a delicate cloud of these wonderful damselflies were recorded around the woodland edge of the meadow at Lake Kondor (25); and around the wet meadow edge near the Black-necked Grebe lake (27) |
| Willow Emerald Damselfly | <i>Lestes viridis</i> | only recorded around the woodland edge of the meadow at Lake Kondor after some hard scrutinizing due to the similarities with <i>Lestes barbarus</i> (25) |
| Blue-tailed Damselfly | <i>Ischnura elegans</i> | commonest of the damselflies often in large numbers around the water-edge (27 – 29) |
| Variable Damselfly | <i>Coenagrion scitulum</i> | only recorded in the meadow area near the bee-eater site (25) |
| White-legged Damselfly | <i>Platycnemis pennipes</i> | this gorgeous damselfly was unfortunately only recorded on one day around the fishponds (27) |
| Norfolk Hawker | <i>Aeshna isosceles</i> | we watched several individuals patrolling the reed-bed warding off any potential rival as we sat on the mound at Lake Kolom (29) |
| Emperor Dragonfly | <i>Anax imperator</i> | recorded along the river channel next to the cow field and Lake Kolom (29) |
| Lesser Emperor | <i>Anax parthenope</i> | a brilliantly fresh specimen was watched from the bridge as it patrolled the river channel (29) |
| Downy Emerald | <i>Somatochlora aenea</i> | a couple of males were patrolling the small inlet as we walked along the causeway at Lake Kolom (29) |
| Broad-bodied Chaser | <i>Libellula depressa</i> | a single male recorded along the river channel near the bridge (29) |
| Black-tailed Skimmer | <i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i> | a pair was watched as they patrolled the Footpath near the fishponds (27); several were flittering and patrolling along the river channel next to the cow field (29) |
| White-tailed Skimmer | <i>Orthetrum albistylum</i> | the female of this species gave the group an excellent photographic opportunity to admire her as she posed while everyone had a shot (27 and 29) |
| Scarlett Darter | <i>Crocothemis erythraea</i> | excellent views of this stunning species, unfortunately a single individual and all too |
| brief | | (27) |

Systematic List Number 5 Mammals

A total of five species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

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|-----------------|----------------------------|--|
| Brown Hare | <i>Lepus timidus</i> | this was a common species seen most days during the trip, around agricultural areas |
| European Suslik | <i>Citellus citellus</i> | an interesting creature, seen over several days in the short grassy areas of the meadows |
| Wild Boar | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | rooting evidence was found near woodland edges and within the meadows |
| Roe Deer | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | recorded over several days, around wooded areas and bouncing around the meadow areas |

Systematic List Number 6 Moths

An interesting array of moths delighted us on the morning of May 28th and 30th. A total of 65 species were recorded around Kondor Tanya, many thanks to Brian and Colin Williams for identifying the various species.

Small Elephant Hawkmoth *Deilephila porcellus*
Orange Moth *Angerona prunaria*
Clouded Border *Lomaspilis marginata*
Bordered White *Bupalus piniaria*
Setaceous Hebrew Character *Xestia c-nigrum*
Pine Hawkmoth *Hyloicus pinastri*
Orange Footman *Eilema caniola*
Riband Wave *Idaea aversata*
Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua comes*
Double Line *Mythimna turca*
Delicate *Mythimna vitellina*
The Flame *Axylia putris*
Willow Beauty *Peribatodes rhomboidana*
Heart And Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*
Pale Prominent *Notodonta ziczac*
Treble Lines *Charanyca trigrammica*
Mottled Rustic *Caradrina morpheus*
Common Wainscot *Mythimna pallens*
Pale-shouldered Brocade *Lacanobia thalassina*
(species of grass moth) *Catoptria falsella*
(species of puss moth) *Zeuzera pyrina*
Cream-spot Tiger *Arctia villica britannica*
Poplar Hawkmoth *Laothoe populi*
Buff Arches *Habrosyne pyritoides*
Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis*
Portland Ribbon Wave *Idaea degeneraria*
Lilac Beauty *Apeira syringaria*
Swallow Prominent *Pheosia tremula*
Marbled Minor *Oligia strigilis*
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthe*
Large Dark Prominent *Notodonta torva*
Rustic *Mesapamea secalis*
Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala*
Green Oak Tortrix *Tortrix viridana*
Spotted Sulphur *Emmelia trabealis*
Bedstraw Hawkmoth *Hyles gallii*
Poplar Kitten *Furcula bifida*
Chocolate-tip *Clostera curtula*
Barred Red *Hylaea fasciaria*
White-point *Mythimna albipuncta*
Lychis *Hadena bicruris*
Sprawler spp. *Asteroscopus sp*

Eyed Hawkmoth *Smerinthus ocellata*
Bird's wing *Dypterygia scabriuscula*
Gold Triangle *Hypsopygia costalis*
Bright-line Brown-eye *Lacanobia oleracea*
Viper's Bugloss Moth *Ethmia bipunctella*
Beautiful Hook-tip *Laspeyria flexula*
European Corn Bearer *Ostrinia nubilalis*
Silver Barred *Deltote bankiana*
Tawny-barred Angle *Macaria liturata*
Pyralidae sp. *Dioryctria simplicella*
Poplar Grey *Acronicta megacephala*
Least Carpet *Idaea rusticata*
Spurge Hawkmoth *Hyles euphorbiae*
Golden Twin-spot *Chrysodeixis chalcites*
Mottled Beauty *Alcis repandata*
Tissue *Triphosa dubitata*
Sharp-angled Peacock *Macaria alternata*
Oblique Striped *Phibalapteryx virgata*
Mullein Wave *Scopula marginepunctata*
Meal Moth *Pyralis farinalis*
Goat Moth *Cossus cossus*
Mullein *Shargacucullia verbasci*
Dark or Grey Dagger *Acronicta sp*
Pebble Prominent *Notodonta ziczac*
Muslin Moth *Diaphora mendica*

Systematic List Number 7 Plants

The systematic order and nomenclature follows that of Collins: Flower Guide, 2009. This is not a comprehensive listing due to the lack of Hungarian flower books, and thus the list will be extended on further trips. The number in brackets indicates the dates that they were recorded on.

Dennstaedtiaceae

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken

Pinaceae

Pinus sylvestris Scots Pine

Cannabaceae

Cannabis sativa Marijuana – widespread along the road verges

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia clematitis European Birthwort – Common

Nymphaeaceae

Nymphaea alba White Water Lily

Ranunculaceae

Caltha palustris Marsh Marigold

Consolida regalis Forking Larkspur – common

Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup

Ranunculus bulbosus Bulbous Buttercup

Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus Greater Celandine

Papaver argemone Prickly Poppy

Papaver dubium Long-headed Poppy

Papaver rhoeas Corn Poppy – fantastic displays of this attractive species

Ulmaceae

Ulmus canescens Grey-leafed Elm

Ulmus laevis European White Elm

Ulmus procera English Elm

Urticaceae

Urtica dioica Stinging Nettle

Fagaceae

Fagus sylvatica Beech

Quercus frainetto Hungarian Oak

Quercus robur Common Oak

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa Alder

Alnus incana Grey Alder

Alnus viridis Green Alder

Betula pendula Silver Birch

Corylus avellana Hazel

Caryophyllaceae

Agrostemma githago Corncockle – common across agricultural meadows

Cerastium arvense Field Mouse-ear

Dianthus carthusianorum Carthusian Pink

Dianthus pontederae Hungarian Pink - small clumps near the Bee-eater sight (25 and 29)
Petrorhagia Nanteulii Childling Pink - Judith found this species around the sandy area near the Lake (25)
Silene alba White Campion
Silene conica Sand Catchfly
Silene dioica Red Campion
Silene italica subsp. nemoralis - this was the large Catchfly in the meadows around the cemetery area
Silene vulgaris Bladder Campion
Stellaria media Common Chickweed

Polygonaceae

Polygonum persicaria Redshank
Reynoutria japonica Japanese Knotweed

Platanaceae

Platanus × acerifolia London Plane

Malvaceae

Malva sylvestris Common Mallow

Tiliaceae

Tilia cordata Small-leaved Lime
Tilia platyphyllos Large-leaved Lime

Brassicaceae

Alliaria petiolata Garlic Mustard
Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse
Erysimum cheiranthoides Treacle Mustard
Sisymbrium altissimum Tall Rocket
Sisymbrium orientale Eastern Rocket

Violaceae

Viola arvensis Field Pansy

Salicaceae

Populus alba White Poplar
Populus canescens Grey Poplar
Populus nigra Black Poplar
Populus tremula Aspen
Salix alba White Willow
Salix caprea Goat Willow
Salix mielichhoferi Austrian Willow

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae

Agrimonia eupatoria Agrimony
Filipendula ulmaria Meadowsweet - only recorded on the first day (25)
Filipendula vulgaris Dropwort - grassland meadows
Fragaria vesca Wild Strawberry
Geum urbanum Herb Bennet
Potentilla arenaria
Potentilla argentea Hoary Cinquefoil
Potentilla erecta Tormentil
Prunus spinosa Blackthorn
Rosa canina Dog Rose
Rubus fruticosus Bramble

Fabaceae

- Amorpha fruticosa* Indigo Bush (introduced plant)
Anthyllis vulneraria Kidney-vetch
Astragalus asper – large swathes in fields around Bugyi area
Astragalus onobrychis Sainfoin Milkvetch – one small clump was found in the cemetery meadows (28)
Coronilla varia Crown Vetch
Genista tinctoria Dyer's Greenweed – only recorded in the marsh meadow (30)
Hippocrepis comosa Horseshoe Vetch – small clumps (28)
Lathyrus palustris Marsh Pea
Lathyrus pratensis Meadow Vetchling
Lotus corniculatus Common Bird's-foot-trefoil – Widespread in grassland
Lotus pedunculatus Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil
Medicago minima Bur Medick
Medicago sativa Lucerne Verges
Melilotus officinalis Yellow Sweet-clover
Ononis repens Common Restharrow – only in leaf
Robinia pseudo-acacia False Acacia
Tetragonolobus maritimus Yellow Dragon's-teeth – very common in grassy meadows
Trifolium montanum Mountain Clover – an unusual find in the meadow (30)
Trifolium pratense Red Clover
Trifolium repens White Clover
Vicia crecca Tufted Vetch
Vicia lutea Yellow Vetch
Vicia sativa Common Vetch

Elaeagnaceae

- Elaeagnus angustifolia* Russian Olive – common along riparian area

Celastraceae

- Euonymus europaeus* Spindle

Euphorbiaceae

- Euphorbia amygdaloides* Wood Spurge
Euphorbia cyparissias Cypress Spurge
Euphorbia nicaeensis Nice Spurge – Sandy areas
Mercurialis perennis Dog's Mercury – wooden areas

Rhamnaceae

- Frangula alnus* Alder Buckthorn – common in hedgerows
Rhamnus catharticus Buckthorn

Linaceae

- Linum flavum* Yellow Flax – only recorded around the church area (25)
Linum perenne Perennial Flax – meadows
Linum viscosum Sticky Flax – beautiful pink flax in grassy meadows

Polygalaceae

- Polygala comosa* Tufted Milkwort – grassy meadows
Polygala vulgaris Common Milkwort
Polygala serpyllifolia Heath Milkwort

Hippocastanaceae

- Aesculus hippocastanum* Horse Chestnut

Aceraceae

- Acer campestre* Field Maple
Acer platanoides Norway Maple

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore

Araliaceae

Hedera helix Ivy

Geraniaceae

Geranium molle Dove's-foot Stork's-bill

Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill

Apiaceae

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo

Heracleum sphondylium Hogweed

Sanicula europaea Sanicle

Silaum silaus Pepper-saxifrage – the yellowy green umbellifer in the meadows

Apocynaceae

Asclepias syriaca American Milkweed – (an introduced invasive species)

Vinca minor Lesser Periwinkle – church

Solanaceae

Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet

Convolvulaceae

Calystegia sepium Hedge Bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed

Boraginaceae

Anchusa officinalis Common Bugloss

Cynoglossum officinale Hound's-tongue

Echium vulgare Viper's Bugloss

Lithospermum officinale Common Gromwell

Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum Purple Gromwell

Pentaglottis sempervirens Green Alkanet

Symphytum tuberosum Tuberous Comfrey

Lamiaceae

Lycopus europaeus Gipsywort

Mentha longifolia Horsemint

Salvia nemorosa Caradonna Sage – the beautiful indigo sage in the meadows (25)

Salvia pratensis Meadow Clary

Salvia verbenaca Wild Clary

Thymus longicaulis Creeping Thyme

Thymus pannonicus Hungarian Thyme

Thymus vulgaris Common Thyme

Plantaginaceae

Plantago lanceolata Ribwort

Plantago media Hoary Plantain

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Ash

Scrophulariaceae

Rhinanthus minor Yellow Rattle

Rhinanthus pulcher Greater Yellow-rattle

Verbascum nigrum Dark Mullein

Verbascum speciosum Showy Mullein

Verbascum Thapsus Great Mullein

Veronica pallens Grey Speedwell

Veronica serpyllifolia Thyme-leaved Speedwell

Lentibulariaceae

Utricularia vulgaris Common Bladderwort – a lovely plant (25)

Campanulaceae

Campanula sibirica Siberian Bellflower – several spikes in the marsh meadow (30)

Rubiaceae

Cruciata glabra Crosswort

Galium aparine Goosegrass

Galium palustre Common Marsh Bedstraw

Galium verum Lady's Bedstraw

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera periclymenum Honeysuckle

Sambucus nigra Common Elder

Viburnum opulus Guelder Rose

Valerianaceae

Valerianella locusta Corn salad

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus fullonum Teasel

Knautia arvensis Field Scabious

Scabiosa columbaria Small Scabious

Scabiosa ochroleuca Cream Scabious - a species of Scabiosa with creamy yellow flower heads

Asteraceae

Achillea distans Tansyleaf Milfoil

Achillea pannonica Hungarian Milfoil

Anthemis ruthenica Eastern Chamomile

Artemisia vulgaris Mugwort Roadsides

Bellis perennis Daisy

Carduus nutans Musk/Nodding Thistle

Centaurea cyanus Cornflower

Centaurea sadleriona Pannonian Knapweed – scattered records across the meadows

Centaurea scabiosa Greater Knapweed

Cirsium arvense Creeping Thistle

Cirsium palustre Marsh Thistle

Cirsium vulgare Spear Thistle

Leucanthemum vulgare Ox-eye Daisy

Matricaria chamomilla Scented Mayweed

Taraxacum officinale Dandelion

Tragopogon pratensis Goat's-beard – lovely stands of this yellow plant across the meadows

Butomaceae

Butomus umbellatus Flowering Rush – marshy area (28 – 30)

Araceae

Arum maculatum Lord's-and-Ladies

Cyperaceae

Carex arenaria Sand Sedge – common around sandy areas

Carex flacca Glaucous Sedge

Carex flava/viridula sp. a complex group of related species mainly of Yellow-sedge – the most common of the sedges found in the marshy meadows

Carex panicea Carnation Sedge

Poaceae

Agrostis stolonifera Creeping Bent-grass

Alopecurus pratensis Meadow Foxtail
Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal-grass
Arrhenatherum elatius False Oat-grass
Briza media Quaking-grass
Dactylis glomerata Cock's-foot
Deschampsia cespitosa Tufted Hair-grass
Elymus repens Common Couch
Festuca vaginata Hungarian Fescue – common grass found across the steppes
Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass
Melica uniflora Wood Melick
Phleum pratense Timothy
Phragmites australis Common Reed
Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass
Poa pratensis Smooth Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis Rough Meadow-grass
Stipa borysthencia Sand Feather-grass

Typhaceae

Typha angustifolia Lesser Bulrush
Typha latifolia Greater Reedmace (Bulrush)

Liliaceae

Asparagus acutifolius Wild Asparagus – fishpond area
Polygonatum multiflorum Solomon's Seal – woodland (26)

Iridaceae

Iris germanica Bearded/Garden Iris – common around the cemetery (28)
Iris pseudacourus Yellow Iris – common seen most days
Iris spuria Beardless Iris – roadside verges (28)
Muscari comosa Tassel Hyacinth

Orchidaceae

Dactylorhiza majalis Marsh Orchid – only recorded the once in the sedge meadow (27)
Orchis coriophora Bug Orchid – the commonest of the orchids recorded
Orchis laxiflora subsp. palustris Marsh Lax-flower Orchid – common across the meadows