



# Hungary

Wildlife at Leisure  
Greentours Trip Report

23<sup>rd</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May 2015



Led by Amanda Borrows and Gabor Orban  
Daily report and systematic lists by Amanda Borrows

## Day 1 Saturday 23rd May

## Arrival and transfer to Kondor Tanya

We all met up for the relatively short flight to Budapest. On our arrival Hungary was experiencing a heat wave.

The journey to the Tanya was very colourful with amazing red fields of *Papaver rhoeas* so vivid they were startling against the green of the surrounding trees and blue of the sky. Red-backed Shrikes, Corn Buntings and quartering Marsh Harriers were spotted as we journeyed along the quiet roads. However, the highlight was the Rollers on the wire as we neared the Tanya, the beautiful powder-blue markings making this species quite distinct. Arriving at the Tanya we had enough time to freshen up before meeting up with David who came a day early, and settling down to enjoy a delicious Hungarian meal.

**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 excellent and delicious Hungarian culinary cuisine, making the experience truly unique.

## Day 2 Sunday 24th May

## Kiskunság National Park – Kumpuszda – Peszéradacs Meadows, Kunadacs

**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 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.

It was very quiet as we set out for our first morning walk, the sky white, no wind and very still. We were staying local, and heading out to the wet meadows of Lake Kondor, although nowadays it is mainly dry. The beautiful flutiness of the Golden Orioles broke the silence as we walked across the road to the meadow area, Nightingales tuned up in the surrounding forested area. A pair of Bee-eaters sat at the end of the wooden fence, watching and waiting. It was probably the pair who have been excavating a nest hole along the sandy path that we were now passing. Intrigued by this hole, we all had a quick look before quickly moving on to explore the grassy bank. Margaret and Cheryl were busy pointing out the many butterflies, Queen of Spain, Brown Argus, Silver-studded and Common Blues that were resting while Pete, David and Stu found the best view to photograph them, when not distracted by the Bee-eaters, Hoopoes or Golden Orioles as they flew around the small orchard feeding off the cherries. John meanwhile was admiring *Tetragonolobus maritimus*, *Linum perenne*, *Rhinanthus minor*, *Rhinanthus pulcher* and *Tragopogon pratensis* subsp. *orientalis* to name but a few species that adorned the meadow. The unusual *Verbascum phoeniceum* and *Stipa borystherica* were an added attraction on the sandy area of the meadow.

From here we decided to walk the short distance to the small spinney to see if any owls were around. This allowed us to admire the wonderful poppy fields, ornamented along the edge by the purple-blue of *Vicia cracca*, *Salvia nemorosa*, *Muscari comosum*, *Tragopogon pratensis* and the odd spike of *Anchusa officinalis*. Unfortunately the owls were not to be found, but the group had some excellent views of Bee-eater and a family of Red-backed Shrikes. At this point we climbed into the vehicle which took us, all of one mile, to the Suslik field where we walked the road to the traditional Puszha church. The Susliks ('running sausages' as they are commonly known) were quite amenable sitting next to the wire and in the open of the field, so we all could get a good look at them.

The walk was interrupted with several stops firstly to admire one of the largest spiders in Hungary, *Geolycosa vultuosa* a member of the wolf spider family. However, due to the unusual position of being on top of a plant, surrounded by ants I think it was dead, but it gave a wonderful chance to see how beautiful this species was. Our next stop was for a Lesser Grey Shrike bathing in a muddy pool, some creatures have no sense of decorum. On the other side of the paddock a Roller was 'horse-riding' or so it seemed from the particular position we were viewing it from. Just before reaching the church we stopped to marvel at a quartering male Montagu's Harrier.

The church gave us a bit of a respite from the warmth and tea and coffee was served from the bus for those who wanted it, Cheryl was more of the incline to have water. Taking a bottle out of the bus, (Gabor had told us the difference between sparkling and still water from the colour of the lid), she was looking forward to some refreshment, however from the look of astonishment on her face it wasn't water she had just gulped down. Apparently the bottles of water were from the last trip (Belarus), where the local guide had been given some moonshine but it looks like the bottles were mislaid and Cheryl got a bit more than she was expecting, and so would the local guide in Belarus!

Once we had all refreshed ourselves we headed out towards the colourful meadow of *Carduus nutans*, and *Salvia pratensis* where the fresh patches of horse dung provided ideal puddling perches for clouds of Silver-studded and Idas Blues. Chestnut and Large Heaths preferred the delights of the various *Dianthus* or *Rhinanthus* species that were ornamenting the meadow.

Lunch was calling and what better place to eat than watching a colour feast of feathers from a colony of Bee-eaters as they wheeled around the grassland area in front of us. We could have easily have left the photographers for the rest of the afternoon, as it was hard to leave such a good photography opportunity, and from one of Pete's pictures we could even identify the unfortunate Painted Lady that was being offered has a food parcel between a pair.

After lunch we continued around the Bee-eater area and headed out towards Peszéradacs Meadows, noting Tawny Pipit along the way. However, before we started our walk Stu had persuaded us all to have an ice-cream, which really wasn't hard. The temperatures were now rising, what a difference to the morning, and an ice-cream was a real treat. It wasn't long before we were all enjoying the treats of the Peszéradacs Meadows, with close views of a male Green Lizard with ticks basking on a fallen log. A dead tree stump was an ideal feeding post for Nuthatch, Short-toed Treecreeper and the elusive Lesser-spotted Woodpecker. Nightingales and Penduline Tits serenaded us as we walked along the river-side path, but were too shy to make an appearance. The gorgeous *Aeshna isosceles* whizzed around our heads before briefly landing in the high grass. A large butterfly probably a Cardinal flew along the woodland edge, but was not going to stay around for IDing.

The marshy meadows further along were full of the captivating yellow *Iris pseudacorus* and the odd purple-blue splash of *Iris spuria*, the scene of which provided a stunning backdrop for several male quartering Montagu's Harrier, which were thrilling the group.

Further along near the cemetery a small grassy area held a wonderful display of *Orchis coriophora*, with some outstanding spikes. There were also one or two dead spikes from *Orchis laxiflora* subsp. *palustris* and *Ophrys apifera*. This grassy area was very fruitful for butterflies. Margaret had found a lovely Grizzled Skipper just basking in the afternoon light, before it was suddenly chased off by its larger cousin a Large Grizzled Skipper, a good species for this area.

The afternoon twilight took on a fluorescent colour that made the journey back very picturesque. Our first full day had been a marvellous day for birds, combined with vibrant red meadows, mixed with dashes of blue and browns from the butterflies, superb.

### Day 3 Monday 25th May

### Tiszaalpár – Tóserdő Area – Kerekegyntza

The ground was wet and clouds low as we emerged for breakfast, not a good day for bustards so our plans changed and we headed out of the woodland area of Tóserdő in search of woodpeckers. By the time we had reached the woods a fine drizzle had started to fall and all was quiet as we wandered down the shady green woodland footpath.

Starlings were busy feeding their brood, Great Tits were teaching their fledglings how to feed, and a Hawfinch was drinking from a forest puddle as we turned a corner. Gabor thought he heard a Grey-headed Woodpecker calling as we continued along the woodland path, but none was spied. The woodland is noted for its *Quercus* species, but we were admiring the amazing old stands of White Poplar and Aspen. Our attention was diverted as a Great Spotted Woodpecker started calling, and flying between the trees. However, it was while watching this species that Lorel suddenly spotted a dashing male Middle-spotted Woodpecker low down probing a dead tree for insects.

Soon after, we headed out towards the wetland meadow where the wooden hide stood overlooking an ox-bow lake. Another surprise was in store, when Stu heard Barred Warbler. We all eventually got to see the bird as it performed display flights in front of the hide. Although it was not a full adult (lacked the typical barring of an adult) it gave some wonderful views when it perched out in the open.

Other birds around the Ox-bow Lake included Whiskered Terns turning sharply now-and-again as they patrolled the water. Pygmy and Common Cormorants 'wing-bashed' as they perched on the various dead trees, while a Squacco Heron fed among the *Nymphaea alba* and *Nyphar lutea* that decorated the water surface. Little Grebes and Ferruginous Ducks were also spotted. Several Night Herons flew in front of the hide before landing on the trees near the lake

After a while it was time to move on and head out for the shade of Lime trees that adorned the grounds around the Baroque Catholic Church at Tiszaalpár, temperatures were starting to rise. The area overlooked the Lower Tisza floodplains and this is where we would be having our lunch. Swallows flew overhead, Black Redstarts fluttered between the trees, and Goldfinches drank or bathed from the various pools along the road.

A Hobby soared high as we looked over the ox-bow lake from the church, we could see Spoonbills, terns and egrets at a distance so we decided to wander down to the meadow to see if we could get better views. Unfortunately we could only go so far due to the high water level over the path. Nevertheless, the group got to see a Kingfisher and Grass Snake as it swam through the water. Penduline Tit called from the nearby willows giving everyone a great chase. An obliging Great Reed Warbler was giving some excellent views as it cheerfully sang in the open among the willows. It was also interesting to see how close Pete and Stu could get to photograph the bird before it flew away, but it was unperturbed by them giving a great opportunity to photograph this elusive bird.

The afternoon was soon closing so we headed back to the Kondor Tanya albeit a stop at Kerekegyntza for Syrian Woodpecker that was feeding on a grassy area next to the road. After which it was only a short way back to the Tanya, taking in White Stork and Roller, making you 'wow', as the blue-green shone strikingly in the evening light. Back at the Tanya there was time for a quick checklist before another interesting traditional Hungarian meal.

**Day 4 Tuesday 26th May**

**Fülöpháza Sand Dunes - Kigyos Fishponds -  
Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes**

The morning started with drizzle, but shortly into our journey the sun came out and blue skies reigned for the rest of the day. Our first stop was an impromptu one for White Stork on a nest with three large chicks. From here we headed out to Fülöpháza Sand Dunes, an area of sand dunes that were formed from sand derived from the deposit of Ancient Danube, many thousands of years ago. This habitat is unique across Central Europe as it is land-locked. Nowadays, the sand dune is covered with the invasive plant *Asclepias syriaca*, but the beautiful delicate *Stipa borysthencia* adds some charm to the area. The area was very still as we walked through, probably due to the cool morning. However, the woodland provided a good display of Spanish Festoon caterpillars eating their larval plant *Aristolochia clematitis*, while Great Spotted Woodpeckers flew through the trees. Yellowhammer sang in the distance and a Roe Deer was spotted bouncing through the meadows.

Kigyos Fishponds were our next stop, but not before a brief stop along the road to view a Black-necked Grebe family, in fact there were several birds, just mingling around the wet marshy reedbed. It was lovely to see this attractive species in full breeding plumage with chicks. Whiskered Terns patrolled and Black-headed Gulls squawked around the back of the reedbed.

The fishponds were very active with dragonflies and an assortment of birds. Pete and Stu had a brief view of what they thought looked like a Banded Dragonfly flying off over the top of the willows around the ponds. Among the scrub female Banded Demoiselles basked, Common Blue, Azure, Blue-tailed and White-legged Damselflies delicately flew from leaf-to-leaf as we disturbed the vegetation trying to get better views of them. A Scarce Chaser on the other-hand was not too worried particular when Amanda stuck her camera in front of it; in fact the picture looked like it was peering in to see what the fuss was all about. Other larger dragonflies included a basking female White-tailed Skimmer and a brief Large White-faced Darter, all exciting stuff.

Birdwise, Nightingale, Penduline Tit and Golden Orioles sang around us in the beautiful *Elaeagnus angustifolia* bushes, but the highlight for the birders was Marsh Warbler. A hard bird to find but one was calling from the bushes next to the fishponds. A short walk produced around ten Night Herons perched in a tree and a Great Tit with a long-tail caused quite a discussion as Long-tailed Tits were flying around with the brood of Great Tits.

Lunch was taken under the wooden frame near the wooden hide at the sodic lakes of Sós-ér and Böddi-szék, and was just as frenetic has breakfast. Gabor had gone to clean the glass in the new hide that looked over a Red-footed Falcon nest, but it did involve a vertical ladder climb, for anyone who wished to join him. The bird could easily be seen from the ground so those who didn't fancy the climb didn't miss out. Lesser Grey Shrike flitted around the posts below the falcon.

Meanwhile, around the grassy meadow Amanda found a beautiful male Sand Lizard, and much to the delight of Margaret a female Large Copper. Avocet, Shelduck and Gadwall fed around the water's edge, while Great White Egrets waited in the distance. There were swathes of Bug Orchid in the surrounding meadows as we made our way the short distance to our next stop to get close views of a pair of Red-footed Falcon.

Standing watching the falcons, Bitterns could be heard booming, Black-winged Stilts prodded the soft silt of the nearby lagoon, as well as a bit of mating, and Garganey kept hiding along the water's edge much to the frustration of some of the group. The nest boxes were also home to a family of Kestrels who just sat and watched the whole proceedings. The area was also the only site we had a fresh Eastern Bath White, beautiful. Flowers included

the usual *Astragalus asper* and delightful *Coronilla varia*, as well as *Salvia pratensis* and a gorgeous patch of *Iris spuria*.

The afternoon was drawing in so we started to head back, not before a stop for the habitual Little Owl on the wire that still won't pose for photographs. A brief stop was made for the Long-eared Owls again, but no, they had dispersed. However, there was a new butterfly species for the list, the striking Mazarine Blue. Back at the Tanya we had time for checklists and a beer before another wholesome Hungarian meal.

## Day 5 Wednesday 27th May

## Kunpeszér road – Kun Hill (Apaj-pusztá) – Bugyi – Apaj-pusztá (Red-footed Falcon site)

After a hearty breakfast, and 'where is the butter', picnics were packed and we headed towards Kunpeszér road, where Gabor had had Stone Curlew a few days before, but not today. Nevertheless, the group had some excellent views of Roller, Red-backed and Lesser Grey Shrikes as they walked along the windy road, while a group of three Black Stork were spied circling over the agricultural fields.

Driving along the road we eventually reached Kun Hill, a known mound for locating Great Bustards. Marsh Harriers quartered in the distance, a Curlew flew up from the grassy area in front of us, but no sign of any Bustards. After a while Gabor pointed out some shapes feeding in the agricultural fields way over in the distance, suddenly a mad dash from the birders ensued, who were only stopped by the reedy canal that separated the fields from the hill. In total around 18 birds were counted. Along with a singing Great Reed Warbler a Marsh Warbler was heard and briefly seen but the wind was keeping everything down.

Meanwhile for those of the group who were exploring the steppes, wonderful stands of *Salvia austriaca*, *Campanula persicifolia* and *Orobancha picridis* were found scattered amongst the assembly of dry grasses, along with squeaking Susliks. Along the arable margins stands of *Agrostemma githago* added a bit of colour to the golden wheat field. It was also a good spot to compare the two Larkspurs *Consolida orientalis* and *Consolida regalis* as both species were decorating the field edge. Cheryl found a resting Knapweed Fritillary the only record for the trip that was sheltering from the wind, as we walked along the field to join the birders.

Walking back towards the hill a male Red-footed Falcon patrolled and eventually landed in the freshly ploughed field we were standing by and right behind David who was oblivious to the bird and us waving and shouting at him to turn round. He was enjoying photographing the various dragonflies and the floristic arable margins in peace. Fortunately, he did get to see it when we eventually reached him. Suddenly, while watching the male Red-footed, a Saker appeared and flew close to some of the group who were near Kun Hill, giving some superb views of this large falcon.

From here lunch was down a rather bumpy road, but the reward at the end was stunning. We were back at another Bee-eater colony. This time the nests were in the sand bank not in the ground. Small groups of the birds were flying back and forth, but due to the weather there weren't many birds around. After a while we moved on to Bugyi road in search of eagles, but again we were unlucky. Nevertheless, we got to see more Great Bustards, a couple of which were in flight, as well as Collared Pratincole, which decided to give a fly-by over the group, resulting in some loud wows. Large numbers of Mediterranean Gulls were patrolling the fields in the distance.

This area was also impressive for its road verges which were brimming with nodding heads of the flamboyant *Carduus nutans*, vibrant stands of *Salvia pratensis* and *Salvia verbenaca* clashing with the white of *Matricaria recutita* and red of *Papaver rhoeas*. The day was dawning

on, and Gabor had one last surprise for us, after we had a stop to photograph the traditional Hungarian Cows.

The afternoon ended at Apaj-puszta an area known for a colony of Red-footed Falcon. This was also a new site for Amanda. I think Gabor had been keeping this one from her. What an amazing site. It was a small woodland area next to an arena, where, when we arrived, a traditional display of horseman-ship was taking place, entertaining the crowds from the two large coaches that were parked next to the colony. What was left of the afternoon was spent wondering around watching the birds preening, mating and feeding before we ourselves had to head back for food.

## **Day 6 Thursday 28th May      Kunpuszda - Dómsód (Saker) - Danube River - River Channels (Apaj area of the puszta) - Bugyi area**

Another drizzly overcast morning but the cheerfulness of Golden Oriole and Chiffchaff notes lifted the spirits of the group as we headed off for another full day out in the field. Our first stop was an impromptu halt for the orchid-buffs among us to investigate the lovely wet sedge meadow. There in their full glory were several fantastic spikes of *Orchis laxiflora* subsp. *palustris* and *Dactylorhiza majalis*. After getting our fill of these superb plants we headed back to the rest of the group who were trying to track down a Wryneck, which was proving very elusive. Fortunately, as we were oohing and aahing over the astounding amount of *Orchis coriophora* along the road-side verge the bird came out and allowed us some excellent views on a nearby tree.

After his delightful interlude we continued our journey to see if the Saker Falcons were still in their usual area. The family were there, but it was very hard to get detail on the birds due to the heat haze (temperatures were rising) and the distance of the nest. Nevertheless, one adult decided to do a fly-past making the camera's click as rapidly as it was flying.

From here it was a short journey to the famous Danube River. We parked up and wandered back down the road to see what we could find. Margaret, John and Amanda were testing their tree identification skills as there were two trees with similar leaves but different. After a while they realised they were male and female of *Morus alba*. The rest of the group were watching a pale Icterine Warbler; otherwise things were quiet so we moved on.

From here it was a bit of a drive to the river channels in the Apaj area of the puszta. At one point we got out to walk along the channels, spying Purple Heron, Red-headed Pochard; Amanda found a Great Reed Warblers nest and John found a young Grass Snake crossing the road. Penduline Tit and Golden Oriole were calling from the surrounding trees and scrubs as we followed the river channel.

Stopping by a stone bridge we could see across the agricultural fields and reedbed lakes. Large numbers of egrets could be made out in the distance along with Avocet and Black-winged Stilts, terns patrolled up and down. There was an obliging Whiskered Tern sitting on a nearby fence post unfazed by our activity. Redshank and Black-tailed Godwits were very vocal as they undertook their flight displays over the wet areas. However, it was the agricultural fields that held the main interest as there was a displaying Great Bustard albeit in the distance. He was displaying to two females, the first one wasn't interested so he moved on to the second one, which was better for us as he was nearer and you could see his whiskers as he flamboyantly paraded around.

Quail could be heard behind us and Lorel was fortunate to see it, Cheryl meanwhile was trying to get our attention as she had found a closer female Great Bustard, which caused great excitement. Grasshopper and Savi's Warblers could be heard singing from the reeds as

we moved on. The bus was soon stopping again and we slowly emerged to watch a Hoopoe dust-bathing and feeding along the sandy track. Another stop was for a perched male Red-footed Falcon, while Marsh Harriers quartered the fishing lakes.

Late afternoon saw us back along Bugyi road in search of eagles, but again we were not to have any luck with them on this trip. The female Great Bustard was still in the same place we had left her yesterday. Unfortunately no Collared Pratincoles were around. We turned back for home, travelling through the varied landscape. It looked like it would be a good evening to go out Nightjar watching. After another hearty Hungarian traditional meal, we headed out to the woodland behind the lodge to listen for Nightjar. In the twilight of the evening we had several calling and fly over our heads, before we had some amazing views of one perched on a log.

## Day 7 Friday 29th May

## Ringing Station Lake Kolon – Northern river channels of Lake Kolon – Sotszentinre (bridge)

It was an early breakfast today as we had to be at the ringing station by nine o'clock, before venturing out on to the oldest lake in Europe; Lake Kolon. Breakfast was another full table of food and people, with the morning's usual rowdy antics concerning lunch and who had all the butter! The sky was blue and at present there were no clouds, hurray has we departed.

However, we knew we would not make the nine o'clock appointment when Amanda suddenly shouted '*Black Woodpecker on the deck, next to the bus*', much to the bemusement of the Americans, but by now they were used to her little quirks. Once translations had been relayed everyone was on the bird, which then flew up from the ground to a nearby tree giving excellent views at eye-level.

We eventually reached the ringing station slightly late, but we were still able to see a couple of birds being ringed. The ringer explained what they did at the station and how they caught and ringed the birds. Our examples were Savi's Warbler and Reed Warbler; Lorel and Kathy were allowed to let the birds go. It was very interesting to compare these two very elusive birds and to be able to look at the long under-tail coverts on Savi's Warbler a distinguishing feature of this bird.

The station is situated amongst an old woodland, and home to a few pairs of Collared Flycatchers that breed in Hungary, fortunately as Gabor was telling us this a male started to call behind the centre. A quick walk round and we were all looking at a lovely Collared Flycatcher. Our attention was also diverted to a very obligating male *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* David had spotted basking on a log. In the compost piles next to this dragonfly were a pair of Green Lizards which looked stunning in the dabbled forest light. A zephyr of Long-tailed Tits with the full white faces breezed around the tree canopy, while people were looking at a Nuthatch nest. It was time for us to board the bus and leave this little treasured spot, as we were meeting up with a couple of rangers who would be taking us out on Lake Kolon, again, not before a brief stop to talk to a couple of local people haymaking. It was also here that we had Bittern fly over the bus.

Reaching the lake, we would have to wait until the boats arrived so our young Ranger took us for a walk around a woodland strip in search of Black Woodpecker, but yet again no bird was going to show. Walking along the muddy track we were suddenly aware that the track was moving, it was alive with frogs, mainly young Marsh Frogs, but there was the possibility that among the masses were also Edible and Pool Frog, but with a mass exodus it was hard to see any identification features other than Marsh Frog. The walk didn't really produce much, a nice *Brachytron pratense* and a Cardinal puddling ended the walk before we sat down and ate lunch in the shade of the poplars.



Lake Kolon is the oldest lake in Hungary. Due to the importance of the wetland area, the lake has been designated a Ramsar site and is located in the oldest part of Kiskunság National Park. This afternoon we would be sedately moving along the river channels of the northern part of the lake, as our boats were electric. For the next hour or so we took in the charm of Lake Kolon, it was wonderful. We were separated into two boats and headed off separately but in a circular route, so everyone would see everything. White Water-lilies decorated the small channel and the carnivorous plant *Utricularia vulgaris* was a good find and in fine display.

Teal, Pochard and Pygmy Cormorants flew over the top of the boats as we motored along, Water Rail called from among the reeds and one boat was fortunate enough to get Moustached Warbler. The other boat marvelled at the numerous dragonflies that were patrolling the open water and narrow channels, from the brilliance of *Somatochlora aenea* as several patrolled the open channels, the sun hitting the downy green body showing off why it is an Emerald. Several *Brachytron pratense* were patrolling the narrow river channels along with *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* and an *Anax imperator* was seen oviposting.

Our last stop was near Sotszentinre Bridge where a new wooden hide had been built to look over the steppes. Red-footed Falcons were flying around and Pete spotted a Little Owl leave one of the bird boxes, but otherwise nothing else was around. Along the river channel a brief view of a pair of *Anax parthenope* in tandem rested on the reeds, but soon flew off. Of great interest were the Pond Terrapins which were basking along the river edge, but they were known as 'sliders' to the Americans, which was probably a more appropriate name.

The sun was starting to lower and we headed back, taking in the evening light and more 'Rollers on wire'. There was time to finish the checklists and recount on what a fantastic day it had been.

## **Day 8 Saturday 30th May**

## **Departure**

The sky was blue when we emerged for breakfast and the temperature was rising as we said our goodbyes to David who was staying on for an extra day and to Lorel, Kathy, Barbara and Bill as they were heading off to Romania.

The journey was uneventful with White Stork, Buzzard and 'Roller on the wire' en route to the airport. However, the airport was more eventful, with bride and groom having wedding photos with planes taking off behind them, along with a bus-load of school kids, who were being shown the sights of the airport outside. We, on the other hand had to stay inside it was safer!

## Itinerary

Day 1	Saturday 23rd May	Arrival and transfer to Kondor Tanya
Day 2	Sunday 24th May	Kiskunság National Park – Kumpuszda – Peszéradacs Meadows, Kunadacs
Day 3	Monday 25th May	Tiszaalpár – Tőserdő Area – Kerekegynza
Day 4	Tuesday 26th May	Fülöpháza Sand Dunes – Kigyos Fishponds – Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes
Day 5	Wednesday 27th May	Kunpeszér road – Kun Hill (Apaj-puszta) – Bugyi – Apaj-puszta (Red-footed Falcon site)
Day 6	Thursday 28th May	Kunpuszda – Dómsód (Saker) – Danube River – River Channels/Fishponds (Apaj area of the puszta) – Bugyi area
Day 7	Friday 29th May	Ringing Station Lake Kolon – Northern river channels of Lake Kolon – Sotszentinre (bridge)
Day 8	Saturday 30th May	Departure

## Systematic List – Reptiles and Amphibians

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

<b>Common Spadefoot Toad</b>	<i>Pelobates fuscus</i>	found around Kondor Tanya on the first night (23)
<b>Green Toad</b>	<i>Bufo viridis</i>	Gabor showed us a lovely specimen of this species at the Tanya (23)
<b>Common Tree Frog</b>	<i>Hyla arborea</i>	unfortunately, this species was only heard, not seen around Kondor Tanya
<b>Fire-bellied Toad</b>	<i>Bombina bombina</i>	Loral describe this species has 'electric humming' quite an accurate description, mainly heard around marsh areas, but we got to see several along the wet track mixed in with the numerous Marsh Frogs erupting out of the grass and muddy areas has we walked along the grassland track, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Marsh Frog</b>	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	a very common species around riparian channels and pools, often serenading us loudly
<b>European Pond Terrapin</b>	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	these 'sliders' were mainly spied basking on logs in and near water areas (26 and 29)
<b>Green Lizard</b>	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	Amanda had a basking male at Kunadacs (24); a pair were showing well around the compost mounds at the ringing station (29)
<b>Sand Lizard</b>	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	Amanda spied a male sunning itself in the grass at Böddi-szék (26); our young ranger guide found a juvenile in the grass. The spots were clearly visible at such a young age (29)
<b>Grass Snake</b>	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	one seen swimming in a small pool at the Alpári-meadow Tóserdő (25); John found a very small individual on the sandy path near lunch (28)

## Systematic List - Birds

The taxonomic nomenclature and systematic order follows both that of Collins: *Bird Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. A total of 133 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

<b>Mute Swan</b>	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	recorded around water bodies (25, 26 and 28)
<b>Greylag Goose</b>	<i>Anser anser</i>	occasionally around marshy meadows (26, 28 and 29)
<b>Shelduck</b>	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	this used to be a rare bird for Hungary, but now common around the sodic lakes Böddi-szék (26)
<b>Mallard</b>	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	common, seen almost everyday
<b>Gadwall</b>	<i>Anas strepera</i>	a small flock recorded flying around the ox-bow lake Tiszaalpár (25); sodic lakes Böddi-szék (26)
<b>Shoveler</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	only recorded near the Red-foot site Böddi-szék (26)
<b>Teal</b>	<i>Anas crecca</i>	among the river channels Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Garganey</b>	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	a lovely species, recorded near the Red-foot's Böddi-szék (26)
<b>Pochard</b>	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	recorded near the Red-foot site Böddi-szék (26); among the river channels Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Red-crested Pochard</b>	<i>Netta rufina</i>	several were seen flying around the river channels near lunch, Apaj-pusztá (29)
<b>Ferruginous Duck</b>	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	the commonest of the wildfowl other than mallard, around water bodies (25, 26 and 28)
<b>Grey Partridge</b>	<i>Perdix Perdix</i>	recorded in the agricultural fields along Bugyi road (27)
<b>Quail</b>	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	this species was very vocal over the week (24, 27 and 28); Loral was fortunate enough to see one of these delightful birds
<b>Pheasant</b>	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	common, seen almost everyday
<b>Great Crested Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	recorded around water bodies (25 and 28)
<b>Black-necked Grebe</b>	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	a road-side marsh stop produced around 10 or so birds, including young chicks riding piggy-back, wonderful (26)
<b>Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	recorded around the ox-bow lake in the Tóserdő area (25); Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Pygmy Cormorant</b>	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	recorded in small numbers around the ox-bow lake Tiszaalpár (25); and small numbers flying around Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Common Bittern</b>	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	several were heard calling from the reeds at Böddi-szék (26); a light individual flew over the bus after the ringing station (29)
<b>Little Bittern</b>	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Stu heard a brief call of one from the reeds near the bridge (29)
<b>Night Heron</b>	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	several were seen in flight over the ox-bow lake Tiszaalpár (25); over 10 birds were flushed from trees at the fishponds site (26)
<b>Squacco Heron</b>	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	an individual was feeding in the lilies near the Pygmy Cormorants, ox-bow Lake Tiszaalpár (25); one was flying over the reedbeds near the hide, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Little Egret</b>	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	only in the latter part of the trip (28 and 29)
<b>Great White Egret</b>	<i>Egretta alba</i>	common and regularly encountered around water bodies

<b>Grey Heron</b>	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	common and regularly encountered around water bodies
<b>Purple Heron</b>	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	frequently seen around marshy areas over the trip
<b>White Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	common, everyday often in large numbers (27 and 28) feeding in freshly cut silage
<b>Black Stork</b>	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	three were seen circling over the fields as we walked along Kunpeszér road (27)
<b>Spoonbill</b>	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	occasional sightings near large lakes (26, 27 – 29)
<b>Black Kite</b>	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Amanda spotted one as it flew towards the bus and around the rubbish tip (28)
<b>Marsh Harrier</b>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	common, seen everyday
<b>Montagu's Harrier</b>	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	good views of a male bird quartering over the marsh meadow at Peszéradacs Meadows, Kunadacs (24); seen from the bus (27)
<b>Buzzard</b>	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	common, seen everyday
<b>Honey Buzzard</b>	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	this species was only recorded flying over the local church around Kondor (24); one was flying over grassy plains Apaj-puszta (27)
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	encountered over the first part of the trip (24 and 26)
<b>Kestrel</b>	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	common, seen everyday
<b>Red-footed Falcon</b>	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	this fantastic bird was a delight for the group and regularly seen over the week (26 – 29)
<b>Hobby</b>	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	regularly occasional over the course of the trip (25, 26 and 29)
<b>Saker</b>	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	our first encounter was with a bird flying high over the Fishponds (26); next day a male gave some excellent views as it flew close to some of the group near Kun Hill (27); on (28) we had distant views of adults and young
<b>Water Rail</b>	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	this noisy bird was calling from the reedbed and river channel, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Moorhen</b>	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	recorded around water bodies (26 – 29)
<b>Coot</b>	<i>Filica atra</i>	common, recorded most days around water bodies
<b>Great Bustard</b>	<i>Otis tarda</i>	up to 18 birds were counted from Kun Hill (27); we had a male displaying albeit at a distant to two females from the bridge along the river channels (Apaj-puszta), while Pete and Cheryl were watching a closer female, nice shout (28)

<b>Avocet</b>	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	recorded around shallow pool areas at Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (26); around the fish pond channels in the (Apaj area of puszta) (28)
<b>Black-winged Stilt</b>	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	a pair were seen mating at Böddi-szék (26); around water bodies (28)
<b>Collared Pratincole</b>	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	several birds were seen in the agricultural fields around Bugyi, a couple decided to give the group close views as they flew over our heads (27)
<b>Grey Plover</b>	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	one heard calling and Barbara found one Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (26)
<b>Lapwing</b>	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	common, recorded everyday
<b>Redshank</b>	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	recorded around sodic lakes (26); fish pond area near the river channel in the Apaj area (28)
<b>Black-tailed Godwit</b>	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	several lovely breeding plumage birds seen displaying (26 and 28)
<b>Curlew</b>	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	recorded around marshy areas (27 – 29)
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	seen most days
<b>Mediterranean Gull</b>	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	several sightings of this stunning bird in large numbers around Bugyi (27 and 28); individuals seen around Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Yellow-legged Gull</b>	<i>Larus cachinnanis</i>	recorded everyday
<b>Common Tern</b>	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	recorded along the river channels (26 – 28)
<b>White-winged Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	individuals seen from the bus (26)
<b>Whiskered Tern</b>	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	commonest of all the terns but then only over three days (25, 26 and 28)
<b>Rock Dove</b>	<i>Columba livia</i>	common and seen everyday
<b>Woodpigeon</b>	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	common and seen everyday
<b>Collared Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	common and seen everyday
<b>Turtle Dove</b>	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	this lovely dove rare in Britain, recorded everyday
<b>Cuckoo</b>	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	heard or seen everyday
<b>Little Owl</b>	<i>Athene noctua</i>	this chunky little species is always a winner when it is perched close by particularly on the telegraph wire (24 and 26); Pete had a bird fly into a bush near the bridge at Sotszentinre (29)
<b>Nightjar</b>	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	we had excellent views of one bird flying and landing on a nearby branch, as well as plenty of churring, (28)
<b>Swift</b>	<i>Apus apus</i>	recorded everyday
<b>Hoopoe</b>	<i>Upupa epops</i>	common and seen everyday at times giving some excellent views 'on the deck'
<b>Kingfisher</b>	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	one seen by some of the group flying over the water near the Alpári-meadow Töserdő (25)
<b>Bee-eater</b>	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	this gorgeous bird was seen everyday

<b>Roller</b>	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	another gorgeous bird, seen everyday 'on the wire'
<b>Black Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	the bus stopped this time, when Amanda shouted, stop, as next to the bus was a male Black Woodpecker 'on the deck', a birders term not familiar with the Americans, but we all got on to it (29)
<b>Great spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	seen and recorded everyday
<b>Syrian Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	an individual was seen feeding on the ground near the road at Kerekegynza (25)
<b>Middle Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	Loral found one in the woodland area at Tiszaalpár (25)
<b>Lesser-spotted Woodpecker</b>	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	an individual flew onto a dead tree above the groups head as we walked along the Peszéradacs Meadows, Kunadacs (24)
<b>Wryneck</b>	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	an elusive species, but the group had good views has an individual perched in a nearby tree Kunpuszda (orchid meadow) (28); one was heard calling around in Lake Kolon area (29)
<b>Skylark</b>	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	frequently seen most days around the grassy plains and meadows
<b>Crested Lark</b>	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	scattered sightings across the trip around the grassy plains and meadows, often giving some excellent views
<b>Sand Martin</b>	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	small flocks seen everyday
<b>Swallow</b>	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	recorded everyday
<b>House Martin</b>	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	recorded everyday
<b>Tawny Pipit</b>	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	two individuals were seen around the agricultural area near Kondor environs (24); a bird was nearly run over by the bus heading home after the bridge site (29)
<b>White Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	common and recorded everyday
<b>Yellow Wagtail</b>	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	common and recorded everyday around grassy areas
<b>Robin</b>	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	only on a couple of days around woodland areas (25 and 28)
<b>Nightingale</b>	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	mainly heard everyday, but several people got to this elusive bird
<b>Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	only recorded around the lodge on the first day (24)
<b>Black Redstart</b>	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	recorded everyday around urban areas and the Tanya
<b>Wheatear</b>	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	a male was spotted near the Bee-eater site (24)
<b>Whinchat</b>	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	recorded around grassy meadows (27)
<b>Stonechat</b> excellent	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	common and recorded everyday giving some views of family antics along the river channel (28)
<b>Song Thrush</b>	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	recorded the one day (25)
<b>Blackbird</b>	<i>Turdus merula</i>	frequent and recorded everyday
<b>Barred Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>	Stu picked up a bird calling has we walked to the hide near the ox-bow lake, Tiszaalpár, we then proceed to watch a male display flight but views were only brief (25)

<b>Garden Warbler</b>	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	Pete had a bird singing in the woodland (25); one was calling near the River Danube (28)
<b>Blackcap</b>	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	heard or seen everyday
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	heard or seen around reed-beds (24, 28 and 29)
<b>Moustached Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>	it was heard calling from the reeds, some of the group were lucky enough to briefly see one, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Grasshopper Warbler</b>	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	heard around reedbeds (25 and 28)
<b>Savi's Warbler</b>	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	around reedbeds and fortunate enough to see one in the hand at the ringing station (25, 28 and 29)
<b>Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	frequent across the week around reedbeds
<b>Marsh Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	this mimicry bird was quite vocal, with the group hearing it most days, and some got to actually see this plain looking bird
<b>Great Reed Warbler</b>	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	frequently heard or seen on most days around riparian areas
<b>Icterine Warbler</b>	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>	a very pale bird was spotted singing from the large trees near the Danube River (28)
<b>Willow Warbler</b>	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	around the woodlands at Fülöpháza (26)
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	heard or seen most days over the trip
<b>Wren</b>	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	a common species but only recorded the once (25)
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	recorded around wooded areas (24 – 26)
<b>Collared Flycatcher</b>	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	a lovely male was heard and seen around the ringing station, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Great Tit</b>	<i>Parus major</i>	heard or seen most days
<b>Blue Tit</b>	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	recorded most days
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	a couple of birds with full white heads were flittering around the tree canopy near the ringing station, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Bearded Tit</b> reedbeds	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	several were calling and flittering around the near the hide, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Penduline Tit</b>	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	heard or seen everyday, with some excellent views of this delightful species around river channels
<b>Nuthatch</b>	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	everyday has there were a family living in a tree to Pete and Cheryl's room at Kondor Tanya
<b>Short-toed Treecreeper</b>	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	feeding on a dead tree at Peszéradacs Meadows (24); around the wooded area at Tiszaalpár (25)
<b>Lesser Grey Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius minor</i>	an attractive bird recorded most days
<b>Red-backed Shrike</b>	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	a striking bird recorded everyday
<b>Magpie</b>	<i>Pica pica</i>	recorded everyday
<b>Jay</b>	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	frequent sightings over the trip
<b>Jackdaw</b>	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	recorded around urban areas (26 and 28)
<b>Rook</b>	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	occasional recorded, mainly around cut meadows (26 – 29)
<b>Hooded Crow</b>	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	seen everyday in all habitats
<b>Starling</b>	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	seen and heard everyday



<b>Golden Oriole</b>	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	seen and heard everyday
<b>House Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	seen and heard everyday
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	<i>Passer montanus</i>	seen and heard everyday
<b>Chaffinch</b>	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	seen and heard everyday
<b>Linnet</b>	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	recorded around the agricultural fields near the Bee-eater site (24); excellent views of a pair along the river channels (28)
<b>Goldfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	common, seen or heard everyday
<b>Greenfinch</b>	<i>Carduelis chloris</i>	recorded most days
<b>Hawfinch</b>	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	recorded around wooded areas (25 and 28)
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	recorded the once around the dunes (26)
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	seen and heard everyday, singing from prominent posts around grassy meadows

## Systematic List – Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature and systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Butterflies of Europe*, Tolman and Lewington. A total of 28 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

### *Papilionidae*

<b>Swallowtail</b>	<i>Papilio machaon</i>	only brief sightings of this species (26 and 27)
<b>Southern Festoon</b>	<i>Zerynthia polyxena</i>	unfortunately it was only the caterpillars we found of this lovely species (26)

### *Pieridae*

<b>Large White</b>	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	surprisingly only recorded on two days (24 and 29)
<b>Small White</b>	<i>Artogeia rapae</i>	Margaret spotted an individual (28)
<b>Orange-tip</b>	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	a male was fluttering around the grassy woodland verge near Kondor Tanya (24)
<b>Eastern Bath White</b>	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	a fresh specimen of this delightful species was only recorded on the one day in the meadow near Böddi-szék while we were watching the Red-footed Falcons (26)
<b>Clouded Yellow</b>	<i>Colias crocea</i>	a female was spotted flitting around the grassy track at Lake Kondor (29)

### *Lycanenidae*

<b>Large Copper</b>	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	a female was fleeting in the long grass at our lunch site, Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (26)
<b>Little Blue</b>	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	puddling in the muddy track near Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Green-underside Blue</b>	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>	Gabor recorded an individual around the cemetery grassland (24)
<b>Silver-studded Blue</b> <b>Idas Blue</b>	<i>Plebejus argus</i> <i>Plebejus idas</i>	regularly recorded in meadows over the trip several were recorded puddling with Silver-studded Blues (24), but due to their similarity to the latter species probably over-looked
<b>Brown Argus</b>	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	only recorded in the meadows on the first day (24)
<b>Mazarine Blue</b>	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	recorded around meadows (26 and 29)
<b>Common Blue</b>	<i>Polyommatus Icarus</i>	regularly encountered on most days across the trip

### *Nymphalidae*

<b>Painted Lady</b>	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	frequently over the course of the week
<b>Cardinal</b>	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	it was not until the last day that we got superb views of this gorgeous large fritillary (29)
<b>Queen of Spain Fritillary</b>	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	a normally common species but only recorded on the first day (24)
<b>Knapweed Fritillary</b>	<i>Melitaea phoebe</i>	an individual staying low out of the wind around the reedy track near Kun Hill (Great Bustard hill)

### *Satyridae*

<b>Meadow Brown</b>	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	common and recorded everyday around grassy meadows
<b>Large Heath</b>	<i>Coenonympha tulia</i>	scattered sightings (24, 26 and 27)
<b>Small Heath</b>	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	recorded in the latter part of the trip (28 and 29)
<b>Chestnut Heath</b>	<i>Coenonympha glycerion</i>	common, regularly encountered in meadows

<b>Speckled Wood</b>	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	Margaret spotted an individual (24); another one was basking near the wooded area near the Fishponds (26)
<i>Hesperiidae</i>		
<b>Grizzled Skipper</b>	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	an individual basking in the afternoon light at the cemetery grassland (24); grassy meadow (29)
<b>Large Grizzled Skipper</b>	<i>Pyrgus alveus</i>	an individual flying around the cemetery grassland (24); grassy meadow (29)
<b>Small Skipper</b>	<i>Thymelicus sylvestris</i>	only the once around the grassy meadows (28)
<b>Large Skipper</b>	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	frequently recorded over the trip

## Systematic List – 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 16 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

<b>Banded Demoiselle</b>	<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	a female basking among the reeds (26)
<b>Willow Emerald Damselfly</b>	<i>Lestes viridis</i>	several individuals trying to shelter among the long grass from the wind, Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (26)
<b>Blue-tailed Damselfly</b>	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	regularly encountered around riparian vegetation
<b>Common Blue Damselfly</b>	<i>Enallagma cyathigerium</i>	several recorded around riparian vegetation (26)
<b>Azure Damselfly</b>	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	riparian vegetation (26 and 29)
<b>Southern Damselfly</b>	<i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i>	Pete recorded this species (27)
<b>White-legged Damselfly</b>	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	riparian vegetation (26 and 29)
<b>Norfolk Hawker</b>	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>	the commonest of the large dragonflies regularly encountered around riparian vegetation
<b>Emperor Dragonfly</b>	<i>Anax imperator</i>	recorded the once, ovipositing along one of the river channels Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Lesser Emperor</b>	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	a brief view of a pair in tandem along the river channel near the bridge (29)
<b>Hairy Hawker</b>	<i>Brachytron pratense</i>	an individual briefly settled on an overhanging bush near the hide; several individuals were patrolling the river channels at Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Downy Emerald</b>	<i>Somatochlora aenea</i>	several individuals patrolling the open waters, Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Scarce Chaser</b>	<i>Libellula fulva</i>	a very obliging male allowed Amanda to stick her camera in its face as it sat on a reed around the fishponds and remained there for the next five minutes (26)
<b>White-tailed Skimmer</b>	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>	only recorded the one day near the fishponds, mainly females (26)
<b>Large White-faced Darter</b>	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	a male was briefly encountered at the fishponds (26); but lots were seen hawking around the river channels at Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Banded Darter</b>	<i>Sympetrum pedemontanum</i>	Pete and Stu briefly spotted what was probably this species at the fishponds, but it flew high and disappeared (26)

## Systematic List - Mammals

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

<b>Eastern Hedgehog</b>	<i>Erinaceus concolor</i>	around the grounds at Kondor Tanya in the evening; one was seen crossing the road (24)
<b>Wild Boar</b>	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	fresh rootings among the trees as we were walking to the bee-eater cliff (27)
<b>Roe Deer</b>	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	regularly seen around wooded areas and bouncing across meadow areas; several were heard barking on the Nightjar walk (28)
<b>European Suslik</b>	<i>Citellus citellus</i>	these cheeky rodents were found around grassy areas and plains
<b>Brown Hare</b>	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	a common species seen most days during the trip, around agricultural areas
<b>Rabbit</b>	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	recorded from the bus (27)

## Systematic List - Plants

The systematic order and nomenclature follows that of Collins: *Flower Guide*, 2009. This is not a comprehensive listing, and thus the list will be extended on further trips.

### Dennstaedtiaceae

*Pteridium aquilinum* Bracken woodland areas

### Pinaceae

*Pinus sylvestris* Scots Pine mixed woods and sometimes plantations

### Cupressaceae

*Juniperus communis* Juniper mainly around Fülöpháza Sand Dunes

### Cannabaceae

*Cannabis sativa* Marijuana common and widespread on waste areas

*Humulus lupulus* Hop roadside verges and woodland edges

### Aristolochiaceae

*Aristolochia clematitis* European Birthwort scattered recorded across various habitats, Tiszaalpár Woodland and Fülöpháza Sand Dunes to note two sites, the latter of which, caterpillars of Eastern Festoon was spotted feeding on

### Nymphaeaceae

*Nymphaea alba* White Water Lily ox-bow lake, Tiszaalpár and Lake Kolon river channels

*Nyphar lutea* Yellow Water Lily ox-bow lake, Tiszaalpár (25)

### Ranunculaceae

*Caltha palustris* Marsh Marigold only the leaves seen around water edges

*Consolida orientalis* Larkspur several plants found around the arable verge as we walked to get closer views to the Great Bustards fields Kun Hill (27)

*Consolida regalis* Forking Larkspur common and widespread

*Ranunculus acris* Meadow Buttercup common in meadows

*Ranunculus bulbosus* Bulbous Buttercup yellow buttercup field last day (29)

*Ranunculus repens* Creeping Buttercup common in wet marshy meadows

*Ranunculus sceleratus* Celery-leaved Buttercup pool edges around the lake below the church (25)

### Papaveraceae

*Chelidonium majus* Greater Celandine roadside verges

*Papaver argemone* Prickly Poppy waste verges

*Papaver dubium* Long-headed Poppy waste and roadside verges

*Papaver rhoeas* Corn Poppy fantastic fields of display from this attractive species

### Ulmaceae

*Ulmus canescens* Grey-leaved Elm found in hedgerow

### Urticaceae

*Urtica dioica* Stinging Nettle shady and waste areas

### Fagaceae

*Quercus robur* Common Oak common found predominant woodland species

## Polygalaceae

<i>Rumex acerosa</i>	Sheep's Dock	grassy meadows
<i>Rumex hydrolapathum</i>	Giant Water Dock	river channels

## Betulaceae

<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	waterside edges
<i>Alnus viridis</i>	Green Alder	odd specimens in the small spinneys
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	familiar tree
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	woodlands and hedgerows

## Caryophyllaceae

<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corncockle	common in agricultural fields
<i>Dianthus armeria</i>	Deptford Pink	mixed in with other dianthus (24 and 26)
<i>Dianthus carthusianorum</i> <i>syn. pontederiae</i>	Hungarian Pink Dianthus	(clustered head) near the Bee-eater site (24)
<i>Dianthus deltoids</i>	Maiden Pink	dry grassland often in large clumps (24, 26, 27 and 29)
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	pool areas
<i>Silene alba</i>	White Campion	
<i>Silene conica</i>	Sand Catchfly	sandy areas
<i>Silene italica</i> subsp. <i>nemoralis</i>	Roman Catchfly	only found near the cemetery grassland (24)
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion	familiar common around woodland verges

## Simaroubaceae

<a href="#"><i>Ailanthus altissima</i></a>	<a href="#">Tree of Heaven</a>	introduced plant common
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## Platanaceae

<i>Platanus × acerifolia</i>	London Plane	notable around Tiszaalpár woodland (25)
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## Malvaceae

<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common Mallow	
<i>Althaea officinalis</i>	Marsh Mallow	only in leaf around grassy areas of the plains

## Moraceae

<i>Morus alba</i>	White Mulberry	this interesting tree was testing our identification skills along the road near the River Danube (28); a pair of huge trees of this species at the ringing station (29). This species of tree does have separate male and female catkins.
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## Tiliaceae

<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved Lime	
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver Lime	mainly planted around urban areas

## Brassicaceae

<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard	leaves in woodland (25)
<i>Alyssum sp.</i>		scattered sightings of a yellow cress grassy edges
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	scattered recordings
<i>Rorippa amphibian</i>	Greater Yellow-cress	water edges (25 and 29)
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard	agricultural headlands

## Violaceae

<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field Pansy	around agricultural verges
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## Salicaceae

<i>Populus alba</i>	White Poplar	common and widespread
<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey Poplar	woodlands usually where there is a lot of White Poplar
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black Poplar	scattered across the plains
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	woodlands (25)
<i>Salix alba</i>	White Willow	riparian areas

<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow	around river channels
<i>Salix rosmarinifolia</i>	Rosemary Willow	noted for its unusual small prickly clump fruit grassy plains

### **Resedaceae**

<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Wild Mignonette	roadside verges
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### **Rosaceae**

<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort	wet meadows
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry	damp woodland verges
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb Bennet	woodland and grassy verges
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary Cinquefoil	dry open plains
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	verges
<i>Potentilla repens</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	roadside verges
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	hedgerow species
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	Wild Pear	several trees along Bugyi road
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog Rose	climbing plant
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble	widespread

### **Fabaceae**

<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	Indigo Bush	(introduced plant)
<i>Astragalus asper</i>	Rough Milkvetch	food plant for the Zephyr Blue Butterfly open grassy meadows
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown Vetch	grassland meadows
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's Greenweed	small patch of this species in the grass meadow near the Bee-eater site (24)
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i>	Tuberous Vetch	the startling cerise pea along the river channel
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	common around grassy verges
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	wet marshy meadows
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne	scattered plants in tall grass meadows
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Yellow Sweet-clover	agricultural verges
<i>Robinia pseudo-acacia</i>	False Acacia	common and widespread
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Yellow Dragon's-teeth	a common yellow pea in grassy meadows
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop Trefoil	grassland verges
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	verges
<i>Vicia crecca</i>	Tufted Vetch	common and widespread
<i>Vicia grandiflora</i>	Large Yellow Vetch	grassy meadows
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	scattered plants woodland edges

### **Elaeagnaceae**

<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Silver Berry	[white with willow leaves, small yellow flowers (what Amanda referred to as Russian willow)]
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### **Euphorbiaceae**

<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress Spurge	common across sandy areas
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	woodlands (25)

### **Rhamnaceae**

<i>Rhamnus catharticus</i>	Buckthorn	woodlands and hedgerows
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### **Hypericaceae**

<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St John's Wort	several specimens at the Bee-eater site (27)
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### **Linaceae**

<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial Flax	scattered plants in flowery meadows
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### **Hippocastanaceae**

<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut	common around urban areas
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### **Aceraceae**

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	woodlands
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	mainly urban areas



<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	scattered around woodland edges
<b><i>Araliaceae</i></b>		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	widespread
<b><i>Apiaceae</i></b>		
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field Eryngo	spiny plant, common around the sandy plains but not in flower
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	basal leaves, grassy meadows
<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	leaves in woodland (25)
<b><i>Apocynaceae</i></b>		
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	American Milkweed	(an introduced invasive species)
<b><i>Solanaceae</i></b>		
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet	climber on bushes around pond areas (25)
<b><i>Convolvulaceae</i></b>		
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed	around agricultural verges
<b><i>Boraginaceae</i></b>		
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Common Bugloss	wayside verges
<i>Alkanna tinctoria</i>	Alkanet	scattered
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>	Hound's-tongue	scattered verges
<i>Echium italicum</i>	Italian Bugloss	prickly stems starting to come into flower
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's Bugloss	
<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i>	Common Heliotrope	small patch along agricultural edges Kun Hill
<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Tuberous Comfrey	small clumps marshy areas (28 and 29)
<b><i>Lamiaceae</i></b>		
<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gipsywort	woodlands and wet meadow 25
<i>Marrubium peregrinum</i>	(a horehound)	the white felty bushes in grassy plains not in flower
<i>Salvia austriaca</i>	Austrian Sage	Kun Hill (27)
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	Indigo Sage	verges, sandy grassy plains
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow Clary	widespread, sandy grassy plains
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild Clary	widespread, sandy grassy plains
<i>Thymus pannonicus</i>	Hungarian Thyme	latter part of the trip in the open plains
<i>Thymus pulegioides</i>	Broad-leaved Thyme	latter part of the trip in the open plains
<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Creeping Thyme	latter part of the trip in the open plains
<b><i>Plantaginaceae</i></b>		
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	familiar plant well-worn tracks
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary Plantain	sandy areas
<b><i>Oleaceae</i></b>		
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash	scarce compared to the next species
<i>Fraxinus ornus</i>	Manna Ash	common and widespread
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common Privet	widespread in hedgerows
<b><i>Scrophulariaceae</i></b>		
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow Rattle	floristic meadows
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i> subsp. <i>serotinus</i>	(a greater yellow-rattle)	
<i>Rhinanthus pulcher</i>	Greater Yellow-rattle	floristic meadows
<i>Verascum speciosum</i>	Snowy Mullein/Hungarian Mullein	large stands of mullein
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	Purple Verbascum	Kondor Tanya and verges
<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i>	Great Mullein	leaves
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	grassy verges near agricultural edges
<b><i>Orobanchaceae</i></b>		
<i>Orobanche picridis</i>	Oxtongue Broomrape	several strands on the dry sandy plain Kun Hill (27)
<b><i>Lentibulariaceae</i></b>		

<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Greater Bladderwort	river channels Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Campanulaceae</b>		
<a href="#"><i>Campanula persicifolia</i></a>	Peach-leaved Bellflower	dry sandy plain Kun Hill (27)
<b>Caprifoliaceae</b>		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Common Elder	common and widespread
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose	scattered around woodland edges
<b>Dipsacaceae</b>		
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	grassy plains
<i>Scabiosa columbaria</i>	Small Scabious	grassy plains
<b>Asteraceae</b>		
<i>Achillea distans</i>	Tansyleaf Milfoil	very similar to millefolium scattered around agricultural headlands
<i>Arctium lappa</i>	Greater Burweed	leaves
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	common roadside plant
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	common
<i>Carduus nutans</i>		
subsp. <i>macrolepis</i>	Musk/Nodding Thistle	common sight across the grassy and floristic meadows
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower	agricultural verges
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	dry grassy meadows
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	basal leaves
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	leaves around waste land
<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	small plant with hairy leaves and stems
<i>Matricaria recutita</i>	Chamomile	road-side verges
<i>Solidago canadensis</i>	Canadian Goldenrod	leaves
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>		
subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	Yellow Goat's-beard	lovely stands of this yellow plant across the meadows
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>	Scentless Mayweed	agricultural verges swathes roadside verges
<b>Butomaceae</b>		
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering Rush	Alpári-wet meadow (25); Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Alismataceae</b>		
<a href="#"><i>Sagittaria sagittifolia</i></a>	Arrowhead	Lake Kolon (29)
<i>Alisma Plantago-aquatica</i>	Common Water-plantain	Alpári-wet meadow (25); Lake Kolon (29)
<b>Poaceae</b>		
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	grassy meadows
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	waste areas and woodland edges
<i>Festuca vaginata</i>	Hungarian Fescue	common grass found across the steppes
<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood Melick	woodland rides in leaf
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	common around reedbeds
<i>Stipa borysthencia</i>	Sand Feather-grass	Fülöpháza Sand Dunes and dry sandy areas
<b>Typhaceae</b>		
<i>Typha angustifolia</i>	Lesser Bulrush	marsh areas
<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Bulrush	marsh areas ponds
<b>Liliaceae</b>		
<i>Asparagus acutifolius</i>	Wild Asparagus	scattered plants across the plains
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's seal	Tiszaalpár woodland (25)
<b>Iridaceae</b>		
<i>Iris pseudacourus</i>	Yellow Iris	water margins common
<i>Iris spuria</i>	Beardless Iris	small patches in wet ditches

*Muscari comosum*

Tassel Hyacinth      common around roadside verges

**Orchidaceae**

*Orchis coriophora*

Bug Orchid

dry grassy meadows, often on road-side verges

*Orchis laxiflora*

subsp. *palustris*

Marsh Lax-flower Orchid

wet meadows

*Dactylorhiza majalis*

Broad-leaved Marsh Orchid

wet meadows

*Ophrys apifera*

Bee Orchid

a couple of dead spikes near the cemetery (24)