

# Honeyguide

## WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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Grey-headed Woodpeckers  
will often perch and drum  
on man-made structures  
such as telegraph poles.

**Eastern Hungary**  
**16 – 23 September 2006**

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Holiday participants

Norman and Maureen Willis

Neil Sherman and Denice Caulfield

Jim Waller

Gill Gregory

Barbara Priest

Leaders

Gerard Gorman

Russell Leavett

Report by Russell Leavett

Woodpecker illustrations are by Szabolcs Kokay from Gerard Gorman's *Woodpeckers of Europe* (Bruce Coleman Books) and reprinted here with their kind permission. Other pictures by Rob Hume.  
Cover: grey-headed woodpecker

This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £25 per person, £175, was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, and £250 from Roger Jordan and friends in the Wildlife Outreach Network based in Essex, totaling £467. Added to this was money raised by the group from the Salisbury & District Natural History Society in June, plus some outstanding from 2005, giving a total of £1,150 for the Hungarian Birdlife partner, MME, to support its saker falcon protection. The group was pleased to meet Janos Bagyura from MME Birdlife-Hungary's raptor protection group during the holiday to hear about MME's work.

The total conservation contributions from all Honeyguide holidays since 1991 was at **£43,378** (€60,729) at the end of September 2006.

## Eastern Hungary 16 – 23 September 2006

### **Saturday 16 September – Budapest to Noszvaj**

Things were somewhat chaotic at Gatwick airport with the result that it was very difficult for the entire group to be located prior to leaving London, especially as we all went straight from the general lounges on to the plane. Normally everyone can finally get together in the departure lounge. However this was soon rectified on our arrival at Budapest and with formalities done we were met by Gerard Gorman, our locally based leader, and our driver for the week, Atila.

We were soon heading east out of Budapest on the motorway towards Noszvaj, noting lots of buzzards on roadside posts as well as occasional flying marsh harriers. We also noted that Tesco seems to be well established in these parts ...

After being greeted by our hostess Barbara and finding our way to our rooms at the Hotel Nomad, we were treated to a fine BBQ dinner and some excellent local wine. We learnt that our hosts expected us to consume vast amounts of food and would be very offended if we let them down. I'm not at all sure that we ever quite lived up to their expectations; I know I didn't!

With most of us by now feeling pretty tired we largely departed for our beds, others to the pool table.

### **Sunday 17 September – Bükk National Park**

A few of us ventured out before breakfast to seek out suitable birding spots for pre-breakfast walks. It was clear that around the hotel and towards the park area would provide some interest with calling woodpeckers, grey wagtails by the pond, nuthatches etc. Neil and Denise reported a short-toed treecreeper.

As the minibus made its way out into farmland areas we quickly became aware of flocks of sparrows by the roadside. These turned out to be tree sparrows, a treat for us with this bird being so scarce in much of Britain these days.

A short drive of half an hour or so brought us into some fine hornbeam woodland in the southern sector of the Bükk N.P. The idea was to walk through some of this woodland, coming out in places into grassy rides and visiting some old quarries. The woodland itself proved to be impressive with good stands of hornbeam of varied age structure and much standing deadwood.

Although there was considerable evidence of the activities of white-backed woodpecker here we failed to locate any birds. Much to do with the season no doubt. Birding was difficult here but black woodpeckers were heard as were both green and great spotted, the latter the most common species. Most numerous (or at least noisy) were nuthatches but we struggled to add even common species of woodland birds, such as tits, to our tally but eventually marsh, blue and great tits came our way along with chaffinches and jays were numerous. A very few wrens and robins were seen or heard.

The more open places held lots of plants including wild sage, chicory, marjoram and whorled clary. In places, good patches of meadow saffron pleased us and when sunny periods developed butterflies appeared: nice amongst these were silver-washed fritillary, large copper, false grayling, chestnut heath and clouded yellow. A couple of fox moth caterpillars were found wandering on the road. As the sun poked through even more, several more silver-washed fritillaries emerged, albeit rather worn specimens, and a great banded grayling was seen.

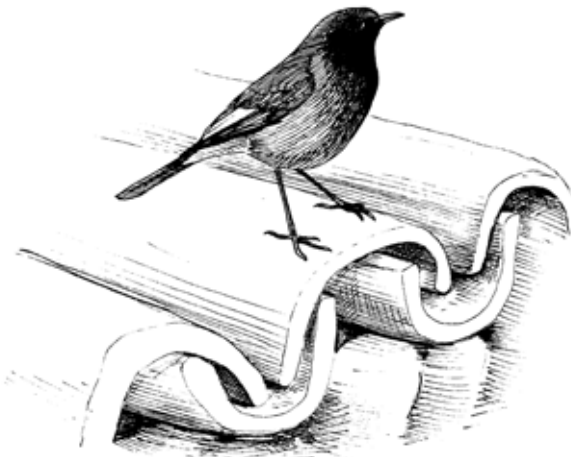
A much more open area with a largish pool provided new interest with several grey wagtails, lots of chiffchaffs and the odd moorhen. Migrant hawker dragonflies were common and a map butterfly was seen. We also found our first tree frogs, delightful little creatures with a big voice.

Lunch in an open area was punctuated by two hobbies flying over, large copper and Chapman's blue butterflies. The only other raptors were buzzards and a single sparrowhawk.

The afternoon continued in much the same vein as the morning with periods of grey weather with spells of sunshine. One of the nicest plants we found was the cow wheat *Melampyrum nemorosum*, a splendid plant with purple bracts and yellow/orange flowers. It was very common in places and a nice find.

Our last site of the day was an old quarry and although busy with people (it is Sunday) provided us with Adonis and silver-studded blue butterflies. A black woodpecker was glimpsed and Ravens were overhead and Gerard tried hard to seek out a calling rock bunting but we didn't see it. Wandering up a nearby wooded track resulted in the finding of a clump of yellow monkshood, a fine plant.

### Monday 18 September – Heves grasslands and farmlands, Lake Tisza



All of the group was out early for a walk together before breakfast. As we made our way towards the parkland, black redstarts were seen on the roofs of the houses, nuthatches called loudly from the trees and green and great spotted woodpeckers were heard; both marsh and coal tits showed themselves. Small groups of overflying hawfinches numbered twenty birds easily. Best of all though was the middle spotted woodpecker that perched out in full view for all to see. A red squirrel was seen near the hotel. A good start to our pre-breakfast walks.

Birds on wires frequently stopped the bus but our first real stop was special – two rollers delighted us for a while and then a red-footed falcon, an immature bird and as it turned out the only one we were to see all week. Further along we saw a great grey shrike

and scanning some fields revealed two northern wheatears.

We were quickly learning that pylons were the place to look for birds of prey and it wasn't long before a pair of saker falcons, complete with their artificial nesting box, was located. These entertained us well and again proved to be the only ones we were to see on the trip. A rather distant large raptor perched on top of a dead tree turned out to be an immature white-tailed eagle and although all it did was sit there, it gave everyone a feel for the size and jizz of the bird, our only sighting of this species.

Moving slowly towards Lake Tisza, we soon had the first of the black storks in view with a group of seven overhead, the first of a number that we were to see during the week. Some fields held small numbers of great white egrets, lapwings and both black-headed gulls and yellow-legged gulls. Immediately on our arrival at Lake Tisza, two night herons were seen resting on vegetation out on the lake and a good range of waterbirds came into view. Both little and great crested grebes were found among the many coots and mallards and smaller numbers of cormorants. Distant terns eventually came nearer and were identified as whiskered, the only species we were to see. Several purple herons erupted from reedbeds but best of all were the 25 or so penduline tits that rushed about the place, often perching in full view and giving everyone the opportunity to get to grips with this small and often elusive species.

Lunch was taken by the lake but was constantly disturbed by birds appearing around us including a red-backed shrike, a species we saw quite a lot of during the day – perhaps ten birds in all. A lone redstart was seen by some and a juvenile great reed warbler by others. Gerard found a sedge warbler while a kingfisher and some pond terrapins entertained others. More waterbirds included greylag goose and mute swan and a lone shoveler. Hirundines feeding over the water included our only sand martins of the week. With rather cloudy conditions for much of the day, finding butterflies wasn't easy but eastern clouded yellow and small

white joined the list and yet more splendid large coppers were seen. It proved to be a good day for reptiles and amphibians with fire-bellied toads, edible frogs, a grass snake and a sand lizard being seen.

The botanists had a fairly thin day but marsh mallow was found as was sea lavender and sea aster, a reminder that the sea was in these parts in the distant past. More expected was purple loosestrife and flowering rush.

Various stops as we wound our way back to the hotel provided more interest, especially when a group of four eastern imperial eagles (*right*) were found, two adults and two juveniles. Although distant and soaring high in the sky, I think we all got a feel for their characteristics – a good introduction to the species. Once again rollers were seen by the roadside, as was a hobby, and whinchats were spotted from time to time, as were more red-backed shrikes and another great grey.



### **Tuesday September 19<sup>th</sup> – Mezokoveszd, Bogacs and Bükk National Park**

A day of a number of stops in a range of habitats – rough grassland, scrub, woodland edge, cultivation including vineyards, orchards and a small lake.

Before breakfast various members of the group looked at either the parkland area or the higher ground above the village. Between us we reported the elusive black woodpecker, more co-operative middle spotted woodpeckers and several hawfinches. On the higher ground a red deer hind was seen emerging from cultivation and both chiffchaffs and blackcaps were frequent.

At our first stop, on the edge of orchards and vineyards, a great grey shrike showed well on wires and a stonechat amongst the vines. Whinchats were moving through and during the course of the day upwards of ten were reported. Ravens were overhead and a tree pipit or two passed over calling and to wind it all up Neil found a brown hairstreak butterfly on some blackthorn. Other birds of cultivation included our first skylark of the trip, clearly not a common bird here at this time.

A brief stop by a small lake turned up a few great crested grebes, mallards, coot, the odd cormorant and grey heron. Swallows and house martins hunted over the water and both grey and white wagtails were along the edges. A spotted flycatcher was found in some scrub along with lots of chiffchaffs.

A longish walk up an extremely flower-rich track kept the botanists busy, highlights included pale flowered orpine, green alkanet, spreading and nettle-leaved bellflowers, perennial flax, annual gypsophila, great mullein and woolly thistle. Meanwhile the birders saw hobbies over a wet area and butterflies kept others busy. On the way back a largish grass snake was found, however when Neil got his digital images home he came to the conclusion that it was in fact an Aesculapian snake, a fine beast, if a little cross!

Our lunch spot proved most productive thanks to Gerard's ability to call up woodpeckers – he soon had a grey-headed woodpecker doing its stuff for us and not just a fleeting view but prolonged sightings for all to savour. A goshawk flew over giving good views of this powerful raptor.

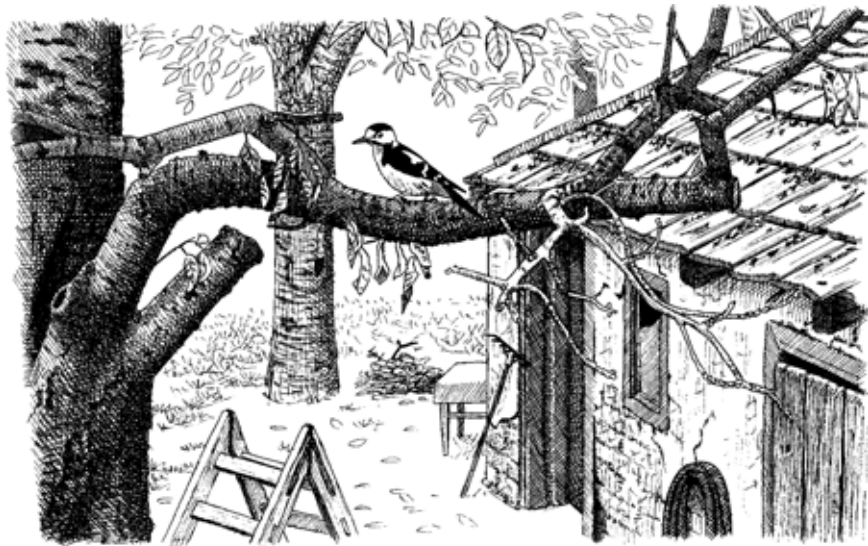
Yet another stop, this time to wander into grassland and scrub, largely to look for butterflies, revealed a female goshawk on top of a dead tree, thanks to Denice's eagle eyes.

The lepidopterists had a good day today, thanks to some nice sunny periods and a range of habitats to look at. During the course of the day several new species were added to the lists including familiar ones such as comma, peacock, red admiral and painted lady. Real goodies included Berger's clouded yellow, Queen of Spain fritillary, high brown fritillary, dark green fritillary, sooty copper and Camberwell beauty.

Both red fox and a dead striped field mouse were added to our mammal list

A short stop in a park in a village failed to produce the hoped for Syrian woodpecker but a 'spotted' woodpecker did show itself but Gerard felt it showed the characteristics of a great-spotted/Syrian hybrid, interesting but not quite what we had in mind.

Our final stop was on the edge of Noszvaj village itself, to walk up a track alongside a series of wine cellars let into the hillside, the actual wine apparently being stored some way below ground under the hillside. Putting the thought, and smell, of wine behind us, we were told that this was another good area for Syrian woodpeckers and sure enough before long Gerard had lured a bird into full view. No doubts this time, the genuine thing!



**Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> – Bükk National Park, largely forested northern sector.**

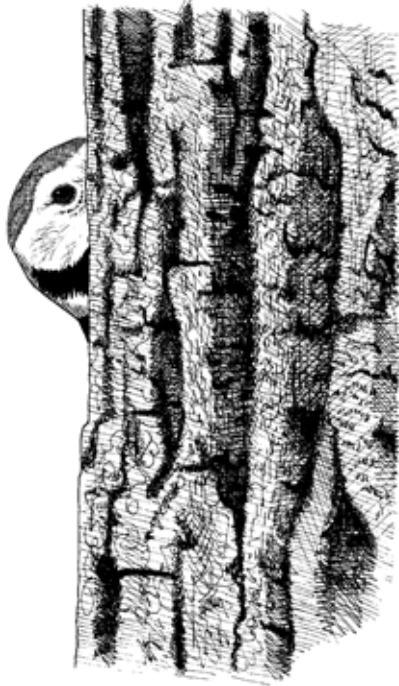
As we had an early breakfast few were out early but Neil and Denice saw or heard five species of woodpeckers before many of us surfaced! Russell at last saw hawfinches quite well.

As we boarded the bus rain started to fall and it was to prove to be a feature of much of the morning. Luckily our destination, the extensive beech woods around Repashuta, were quite a long drive, so it didn't worry us unduly, least not at first. The wet journey not surprisingly proved to be pretty birdless although as always buzzards were seen and jays, common birds in these forested areas, showed themselves.

Our first port of call, a lake at Repashuta, produced several grey wagtails. As always nuthatches and marsh tits were in evidence and 'spotted' woodpeckers refused to show themselves and when they did were great-spotted. Gerard picked out a calling goldcrest and although I don't think anyone actually saw it, it went down as the only one for the trip. Things get desperate on these wet days... Norman and Maureen had good views of a dark red squirrel.

We next set off, on foot, down a stone road through some magnificent mature beech forest. Major parts of it had been left unmanaged so it supported considerable deadwood, both standing and lying on the floor of wood. A huge range of ages of trees further added to the feel that this was a pretty natural woodland, least by UK standards. Other parts of the forest are managed however and we saw evidence of this too. Clearly this ought to be an excellent place to catch up with more woodpeckers – signs of trees being 'worked' by white-backed woodpeckers weren't unusual but try as Gerard might he could not call up these elusive birds. However occasional middle-spots were heard, a black woodpecker glimpsed and others heard but to be honest it was hard work, despite by now an easing of the rain. Other birds included the wren, a couple of treecreepers and yet more nuthatches.

The botanists struggled too but sweet woodruff, an arum lily, one of the helleborines (leaves only) and both maidenhair and hart's tongue ferns were new. By now I think we had all had enough so we slowly made our way back to the bus with lunch in mind. Norman and Maureen had retreated earlier and we found them in a school playground surrounded by children showing them their pets!



Our lunch spot was in a grassy clearing and with a hint of brightening weather we soon found a few silver-washed fritillaries venturing out. Eastern wood vetch and hop trefoil were found close to the lunch place and some of us ate dewberries as a desert!

Later a walk along a grassy woodland ride proved to be flower-rich with patches of long-leaved speedwell and in damper places spiked speedwell. Other goodies included bloody cranesbill, common rockrose, Eastern marsh ragwort and spearmint. The only new butterfly for the day was a rather worn dryad.

Our last stop, a roadside lay-by on the edge of woodland and scrub produced the best sightings of the day. Gerard called up an excellent middle spotted woodpecker (*left*) that performed in full view in the top of a tree for long enough for everyone to see it well. Below it, in a rot hole at the base of the tree, was an active hornet's nest. Well pleased with this we were then treated to an over flying goshawk and a more distant honey buzzard, winging its way south.

With the weather really not very good for much of the day we retreated to the hotel a little earlier than usual. Atila was applauded for his careful driving on wet winding roads through the forest.

#### **Thursday 21 September – Hortobágy National Park**

As were off to a more distant venue today an early breakfast was necessary. By 8.30 am we were on our way towards the Hortobágy N.P. resisting the temptation to stop and look at those distant birds on poles and pylons en route.

A brief fuel/loo stop provided nice views of four black storks overhead. In due course we arrived at the first of the large wetlands, an area of reedbeds and pools, which are one of the features of this national park. As we got out of the bus large skeins of greylag geese passed over, "Truly wild birds" said Gerard, "not like those in the UK"! A few curlews were mixed in with the geese for good measure.

A real feature of this first stop was the numbers of pygmy cormorants to be seen. These small neat cormorants seemed to be everywhere providing everyone with really good views of them, not only flying but also perching and out on water. It was clear that the marshes we were overlooking were teeming with birds – great white egrets were common and here and there purple herons rose out of the reeds. A few little egrets were seen, much less common than their larger cousins.

Attractive groups of spoonbills flew from place to place, some showing very well. A closer look at some of the marshy spots revealed some waders including lapwings, ruff, greenshank, a spotted redshank and several wood sandpipers. Ducks included gadwall, the first we had seen. We wandered along a track to view our one and only bird hide of the trip – from this Neil spotted a water rail lurking along the edge of some reeds but it was gone before the rest of us could see it.

Moving on we came close to a group of bushes holding a night heron roost – we counted as least 20 birds but suspected there may have been rather more. The village of Nagyivan boasted many white stork nests although sadly their owners had left for southern climes. Most of the nests were perched on top of

electricity poles where the electric company had built special platforms for them to minimise disruption to the electricity system. Storks are welcome guests in Hungarian villages.

A dry grassland area near to the village held two stone-curlews that entertained us nicely, as did two crested larks, the first of the trip.



This was also the day to see cranes and we managed to find several groups flying over as well, as small numbers feeding out in the farmland. Three roe deer were spotted in one field.

Much of the afternoon was spent visiting a series of fishponds, another special aspect of the park. Huge numbers of coot occurred on these along with many mallard and on some good numbers of pochard. While watching these at one site three ferruginous ducks came into view to be later joined by others. We reckoned we saw at least 20 in all. On one pool a lone black-necked grebe was found amongst the coot. A single pintail flew over and five teal added to our tally of duck species. Add to this a range of heron species, the ever present marsh harriers and in places good numbers of whiskered terns, for an excellent day of wetland birdwatching. Some group members voted this the best site of the trip.

As we wound our way back a short stop was made at the park Visitor Centre for loos, postcard purchases etc. It has to be said not a particularly inspiring place as an introduction to the National Park but all right on the way out! Perhaps of most interest were the Racka sheep in the paddock by the centre, the males most impressive with their spiralled horns.

During the course of the week Atila had got the hang of spotting perched birds on poles or pylons from his driving seat and today he came into his own. On our way back to Noszvaj he pointed out some birds sitting on a distant pylon – these turned out to be a pair of Eastern imperial eagles with a single immature bird and although the sun was against us we saw their distinguishing features well enough. A great way to end a most enjoyable day.

#### **Friday 22 September – Bogacs area and the north end of Lake Tisza**

Most of the group ventured out early, some to the park, others to higher ground above the village. For all it proved to be a breezy start to the day making birding difficult; nevertheless middle spotted, green and great spotted woodpeckers were seen or heard in the park area along with the regular parties of marsh tits and overhead hawfinches. And of course the inevitable nuthatches, a feature of every early walk regardless of where you went.

With increasing wind we wound our way through farmland towards Bogacs, stopping once again to spend some time looking at the family of Eastern imperial eagles that we had seen yesterday. This time in much better light and closer. By viewing them from various angles everyone was able to see the diagnostic features of both the adults and the immature bird well.



As we worked our way through farmland the cry “large bird of prey” often filled the air; these largely proved to be buzzards but as we got nearer to the lake were often marsh harriers. And, of course, kestrels and sparrowhawks turned up from time to time.

Migrating black storks continued to appear overhead here and there with the largest group of more than 20 birds. Once again some of the agricultural land held great white egrets and grey herons along with mixed corvid flocks, lapwings and nice little groups of tree sparrows.

Gerard, in his inimitable way, heard a calling lesser spotted woodpecker from the moving bus and with the help of his CD player he soon had a fine male in full view in the top of a nearby tree. The bird performed well and for ages and was voted ‘woodpecker of the week’ by some! By now we were close to the north end of Lake Tisza and a lunch spot chosen. Almost immediately a kingfisher flew by and occasional ducks were overhead including a lone pintail. Greylag geese flew noisily by and a group of forty even noisier cranes went over, very pleasant as we ate! Neil and Denice added red-veined darter to our list of dragonflies.



After lunch we slowly made our way along the north shore of the lake, stopping wherever gaps in the vegetation allowed us to view the water or the marshes. Once again large groups of coots were seen, often with small numbers of great crested grebes and dabchicks, lots of mallards and more whiskered terns. At one stop, two garganeys were found and five distant shovelers seen.

Eventually we arrived at the pumping station that we had last visited on Monday and once again penduline tits delighted us – never an easy species to locate but here perching nicely on wires in full view despite the now strong wind! Gerard turned up our one and only reed warbler of the trip.

By now it was time that we were working our way back towards the hotel, again keeping our eyes open for anything of interest by the roadside; a lone roller was seen in one place and once again great grey shrikes were seen on the wires. An ice cream stop was made by public demand, only the second of the week!

Nearer to Noszvaj we stopped to look in a reasonably sheltered meadow to seek out butterflies and soon found some Queen of Spain fritillaries, large coppers and our first confirmed common blue of the trip. New plants included common vetch, tuberous pea and some fine clumps of forked larkspur. Unfortunately major parts of the meadow had by now been cut, presumably for hay, which reduced the botanical interest of the meadow today but it was good to see traditional management of this sort continuing. Neil and Denice’s interest in butterflies added much to our week and overall thirty-two species were seen, so our thanks to them.

Before dinner Janos Bagyura from MME Birdlife-Hungary’s raptor protection group gave us a very interesting talk about the work that was underway to support the saker falcon population in Hungary. It was encouraging and surprising to learn, that despite many birds using artificial nest sites and thus being easy to locate, that neither egg collecting nor the removal of young for falconry purposes was a problem. MME

currently has a small membership of around 8,000 people so is extremely grateful for the kind of financial support that Honeyguide can offer. We in turn were grateful to Janos and his assistant for coming all the way from Budapest to talk to us.

### **Saturday 23 September – Noszvaj to Budapest and Kiskunsag National Park**

Several of the group managed a brief walk before a 7.30 breakfast reporting probably the best views yet of black woodpeckers at the local park, where they also saw two middle spotted woodpeckers, as well as great spotted, green and heard a lesser spotted – not a bad haul!

With breakfast over we said our thanks to Barbara and her staff for looking after us so well at the Nomad and, especially, her mother, who did most of the cooking but who had remained hidden until today! We much enjoyed her excellent cooking. We left them at about 8.30 am.

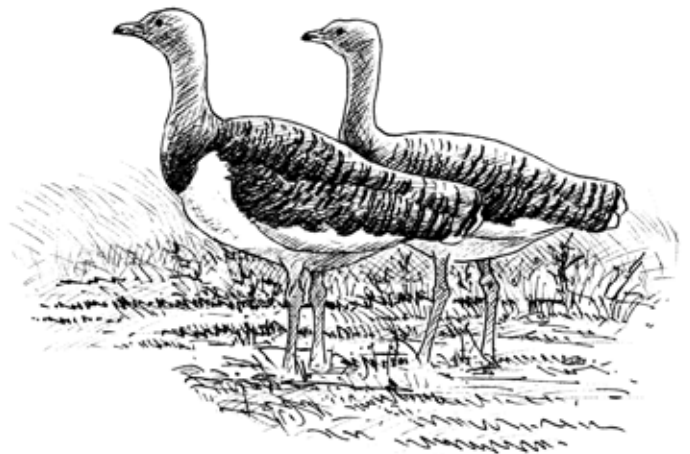
En route to Budapest we saw many buzzards on roadside fences and even a possible distant imperial eagle! There were several great grey and red-backed shrikes on the wires with the occasional stonechat thrown in for good measure. A short luo/chocolate stop produced a couple of crested larks.

All week we had watched TV news reports of riots in Budapest so it was with a little concern that we went into the city for our bus tour of the main sights. Despite much flag-waving and chanting near their Parliament building, all was essentially peaceful and Gerard was able to point out many fine buildings including the Opera House, some splendid churches and the impressive Hero's Square. It was clear that the city has much to interest the visitor.

This done we still had a few hours to spare before we were due at the airport so we drove south into Kiskunsag N.P. in the hope that we might see some great bustards. As we passed over a river bridge Denise spotted a turtle dove flying away, the only one of the trip, and yet another kingfisher.

Gerard knew exactly the areas that might turn up the bustards and it wasn't long before we had a group of 24 in full view, spread out across agricultural land. Yet another stop produced at least another 13 birds, which we viewed as we lunched. With time now getting short we set off for the airport, firstly to Terminal 2, which had a colony of European susliks (ground squirrels) living in an isolated patch of grassland near the buildings and surrounded by roads – we saw a dozen or more but why were they in this particular spot? Jim reckoned that they were too scared by the traffic to leave, which seemed reasonable!

Time now to go immediately to Terminal 1 and by 7 pm we were safely back at Gatwick, happily only slightly delayed.



## Hungary plant list September 2006

Some common species were not noted e.g. bramble. A high proportion of species recorded by the 2005 group were re-found and we added others. We used *The Wild Flowers of Britain and Northern Europe* by Fitter, Blamey & Fitter (Collins). Trees and shrubs are lumped together at the beginning, apart from species that occur in other families in the list e.g. peas.

Marked in **bold** are selected species of particular note or appeal to a UK-based botanist. L = leaves only.

### Trees and shrubs (*incomplete and excludes obviously planted trees*)

<i>Acer campestre</i>	field maple
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	hornbeam
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	hazel
<i>Cotinus coggygria</i>	smoke bush
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian cherry
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	dogwood
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	spindle-tree
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	beech
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	ash
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	wild privet
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey oak
<i>Quercus robur</i>	pedunculate oak

### Flowering plants - Dicotyledons

#### AMARANTHACEAE – amaranths

*Amaranthus sp.*: there were lots of this difficult group of established aliens as field weeds.

#### ARACEAE

*Arum, ? species* lords and ladies

#### ASCLEPIADACEAE – milkweeds

*Vincetoxicum europaeum* swallow-wort

#### BALSAMINACEAE – borage family

*Impatiens glandulifera* Himalayan balsam

#### BORAGINACEAE – borage family

<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	alkanet
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	viper's bugloss
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	green alkanet
<i>Pulmonaria officinalis</i>	lungwort
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	comfrey

#### BUTOMACEAE – flowering rush

*Butomus umbellatus* flowering rush

#### CAMPANULACEAE – bellflowers

<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	harebell
<i>Campanula patula</i>	spreading bellflower
<i>Campanula trachelium</i>	nettle-leaved bellflower (bats-in-the-belfry)

#### CANNABACEAE – hemp family

*Humulus lupulus* hop

#### CAPRIFOLIACEAE

<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	dwarf elder/danewort
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder

CARYOPHYLLACEAE – pinks

<i>Gypsophila muralis</i>	annual gypsophila
<i>Myosotea aquaticum</i>	water chickweed
<i>Silene alba</i>	white campion
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	bladder campion
<i>Spergularia media</i>	greater sea spurrey

CISTACEAE – rock-roses

<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	common rock-rose
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COMPOSITEAE (ASTERACEAE) – daisy family

<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	yarrow
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	ragweed
<b><i>Aster tripolium ssp pannonicum</i></b>	<b>sea aster</b>
<i>Aster linosyris</i>	goldilocks
<i>Carduus crispus</i>	a thistle
<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	carline thistle
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	greater knapweed
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	chicory
<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	woolly thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	spear thistle
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Canadian fleabane
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	field eryngo
<i>Inula conyza</i>	ploughman's spikenard
<i>Matricaria perforata</i>	scentless mayweed
<i>Petasites ?species</i>	butterbur
<i>Senecio erraticus?</i>	Eastern marsh ragwort
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	golden-rod
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	tansy
<i>Telekia speciosa</i>	large yellow ox-eye
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	goatsbeard
<i>Xanthium spinosum</i>	spiny cocklebur
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	rough cocklebur

CONVOLVULACEAE – bindweeds

<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	hedge bindweed
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CRASSULACEAE – stonecrops

<b><i>Sedum (telephium) maximum</i></b>	<b>an orpine or livelong with pale yellow flowers</b>
	<b>Polunin</b>

CRUCIFERAE (BRASSICACEAE) – crucifers

<b><i>Lunaria rediviva</i></b>	<b>perennial honesty</b>
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CUCURBITACEAE – cucumber/gourd family

<i>Echinocystis lobata</i>	prickly cucumber
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DIPSACACEAE – scabious/teasel family

<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	small teasel
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	field scabious
<b><i>Scabiosa ochroleuca</i></b>	<b>yellow scabious</b>

EUPHORBIACEAE – spurges

<i>Euphorbia cyparissius</i>	cypress spurge
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GENTIANACEAE – gentians

<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	common centaury
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GERANIACEAE – cranesbills & storksills

<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	cut-leaved geranium
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	herb Robert
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	bloody cranesbill

GUTTIFERAE – St John's-worts

*Hypericum perforatum*

perforate St John's-wort

LABIATAE (Lamiaceae) – labiates

*Ballota nigra*

black horehound

*Clinopodium vulgare*

wild basil

*Galeopsis angustifolia*

red hemp-nettle

*Lamium album*

white dead-nettle

*Lyocopus europaeus*

gypsywort

*Mentha aquatica*

water mint

*Mentha spicata*

spear mint

*Origanum vulgare*

marjorum

*Salvia verticillata*

whorled clary

***Salvia nemorosa***

**wild sage**

LEGUMINOSAE (FABACEAE) – peas

*Genista tinctoria*

dyer's greenweed

*Lathyrus tuberosus*

tuberous pea

*Medicago sativa*

lucerne

*Melilotus officinalis*

ribbed melilot

*Ononis repens?*

restharrow

*Robinia pseudacacia*

false acacia

*Trifolium arvense*

haresfoot clover

*Trifolium campestre*

hop trefoil

*Vicia cracca*

tufted vetch

*Vicia lutea*

yellow vetch

*Vicia pisiformis*

Eastern wood vetch?

*Vicia sativa*

common vetch

LINACEAE – flax family

*Linum perenne*

perennial flax

LYTHRACEAE

*Lythrum salicaria*

purple loosestrife

MALVACEAE – mallows

*Althaea officinalis*

marsh mallow

*Malva sylvestris*

common mallow

OXALIDACEAE – wood-sorrel family

*Oxalis acetosella*

wood-sorrel

L

PAPAVERACEAE – poppies

*Chelidonium majus*

greater celandine

PLANTAGINACEAE – Plantain family

*Plantago media*

hoary plantain

PLUMBAGINACEAE – sea-lavenders

*Limonium gmelini*

a local sea lavender

POLYGALACEAE - milkworts

*Polygala vulgaris*

common milkwort

PRIMULACEAE – primrose family

*Anagallis arvensis*

scarlet pimpernel

RANUNCULACEAE – buttercup family

***Aconitum anthora***

**yellow monkshood**

**alpine flora**

*Clematis vitalba*

traveller's joy

*Consolida regalis*

forking larkspur

*Nigella arvensis*

love-in-mist

ROSACEAE – rose family

<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	agrimony	
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	dropwort	
<i>Fragaria moschata</i>	hautbois strawberry	fruit
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	herb Bennet	
<i>Rubus caesius</i>	dewberry	fruit

RUBIACEAE – bedstraws

<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	squinancywort	
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	sweet woodruff	L

SCROPHULARIACEAE – figwort family

<i>Euphrasia sp.</i>	eyebright	
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	common toadflax	
<b><i>Melampyrum nemorosum</i></b>	<b>a cow-wheat, with purple bracts</b>	
<i>Odonites verna</i>	red bartsia	
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	common figwort	
<i>Verbascum blattaria</i>	moth mullein	
<i>Verbascum densiflorum</i>	great mullein	
<i>Verbascum phlomoides</i>	orange mullein	
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	germander speedwell	
<b><i>Veronica longifolia</i></b>	<b>long-leaved speedwell</b>	
<i>Veronica spicata</i>	spiked speedwell	

SOLONACEAE – nightshades

<i>Datura stramonium</i>	thorn-apple	
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i>	henbane	
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	bittersweet	
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>	black nightshade	

UMBELLIFERAE (APIACEAE) – umbellifers

<i>Bupleurum falcatum</i>	sickle hare's-ear	
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	pignut	
<i>Daucus carota</i>	wild carrot	
<i>Seseli libanotis</i>	moon carrot	
<i>Silaum silaus</i>	pepper saxifrage	

VERBENACEAE

<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	vervain	
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VIOLACEAE – violets

<i>Viola arvensis</i>	field pansy or heartsease	
<i>Viola riviniana</i> (probably)	common dog violet	

**Monocotyledons**

LILIACEAE – lilies

<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	meadow saffron	
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's seal	

ORCHIDACEAE – orchids

<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	broad-leaved helleborine ? leaves only	
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**Ferns**

<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort	
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue fern	

## Systematic List – Birds (120 species)

Little grebe	Recorded on three days, notably at Lake Tisza and on fish ponds in the Hortobágy National Park.
Great crested grebe	Present on all larger water bodies in small numbers.
Black-necked grebe	A single on one of the fish ponds in the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Pygmy Cormorant	Common in wetland areas of the Hortobagy N. P.on 21/9.
Cormorant	Present on all larger water bodies.
Little egret	Much less common than great white egret, a few in scattered wet places in the Hortobágy N.P. and at Lake Tisza.
Grey heron	Scattered individuals in wet ditches, more common in the marshes, especially in the Lake Tisza and Hortobágy N.P. areas.
Purple heron	Two at Lake Tisza on 18/9 and several at various sites within the Hortobagy N.P. on 21/9.
Great white egret	Frequent in agricultural land and marshes by Lake Tisza and in the Hortobágy N.P.
Night heron	Two at Lake Tisza (18/9) and at least 20 roosting in some bushes in the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Spoonbill	Only recorded from the Hortobagy N.P, where 'dozens' on 21/9.
Black Stork	Passage birds recorded on four days, the largest group 20+ birds on 22/9 near Lake Tisza.
Mute swan	Small numbers on larger water bodies such as lake Tisza and in the Hortobagy N.P.
Greylag goose	Frequent around larger water bodies, especially in the Hortobagy N.P. where many hundreds.
Gadwall	Frequent in marshes and on fish ponds in the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Teal	Small (c5) numbers in the Hortobágy N.P.
Mallard	Recorded in small numbers on most pools within agricultural land and more commonly on larger water bodies.
Pintail	Singles in the Hortobágy N.P. and near Lake Tisza on 21/9 and 22/9.
Garganey	A single in the Hortobágy N.P on 21/9 and two at Lake Tisza on 22/9.
Shoveler	A single at Lake Tisza on 18/9 and five there on 22/9.
Pochard	Frequent on fish ponds in the Hortobágy N.P.on 21/9.
Ferruginous duck	Up to twenty on a fish pond within the Hortobágy N.P.on 21/9.
Honey buzzard	A single bird flying strongly south on 20/9 was the only sighting.
White-tailed eagle	A single bird in farmland in the Heves area on 18/9 was the only sighting.
Short-toed eagle	A single glimpsed briefly on 21/9 within wooded farmland was the only sighting.
Marsh harrier	Common in all wetter areas, especially around Lake Tisza and in the Hortobagy N.P.
Sparrowhawk	Odd birds seen on most days within farmland, wooded areas etc

Goshawk	Two on the 19 <sup>th</sup> and one on the 20 <sup>th</sup> , all in the Bükk N.P.
Common buzzard	The common roadside raptor throughout the area including close to Budapest.
Eastern imperial eagle	Seen on four days involving a maximum of four birds on any one day, all in farmland areas and often perching on electricity pylons.
Kestrel	Widespread and frequent throughout the area.
Red-footed falcon	A single immature bird in farmland between Noszvaj and Lake Tisza on 18/9 was the only sighting.
Hobby	One – two birds on four days.
Saker	A pair perched on a pylon close to their nestbox within farmland on 18/9.
Pheasant	A few birds seen or heard on most days.
Water rail	A single bird skulking in reeds in the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9 was the only sighting.
Moorhen	Frequent in small numbers on many pools, lakes and in other wet areas.
Coot	Abundant on the larger water bodies throughout the area.
Crane	A number of small groups, largely passing over, especially within the Hortobágy N.P. and near Lake Tisza, 40+ the largest.
Great bustard	Two groups, one of 24 birds, the other of 13, seen well within the Kiskunsag N.P. south of Budapest on 23/9.
Lapwing	Small groups in marshes and farmland, especially around Lake Tisza and in the Hortobágy N.P.
Snipe	Two in marshland at the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9 the only sighting.
Curlew	Small numbers passed over at the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Spotted redshank	A single bird at the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Greenshank	Two at the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Wood sandpiper	Several at the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9.
Ruff	Several at the Hortobágy N.P. on 21/9
Stone-curlew	Two in dry grassland near Nagyivan in the Hortobágy N.P.
Black-headed gull	Frequent close to larger water bodies, especially near Lake Tisza and the Hortobágy N.P. often feeding within agricultural land.
Yellow-legged herring gull	Ditto
Whiskered tern	Only recorded at Lake Tisza and within the Hortobágy N.P. wetlands.
Feral pigeon	Widespread and common.
Wood pigeon	Recorded on all days in moderate numbers.
Stock dove	A few birds on two days.
Turtle dove	A single bird in the Kiskunsagi N.P. on 23/9 was the only sighting.



Collared dove	Widespread and common.
Tawny owl	Heard at Noszvaj on two evenings.
Little owl	A single bird flushed from a barn on 21/9 was the only sighting.
Kingfisher	Singles on three days.
Roller	8 – 10 birds within farmland on 18/9 and a single on 22/9.
Lesser spotted woodpecker	Seen and heard on four days, both at Novzsvaj and elsewhere.
Middle spotted woodpecker	Heard on most days at Noszvaj, seen well on some. Also on visits to Bükk N.P.
Great spotted woodpecker	The common 'spotted' woodpecker, seen or heard daily, often commonly.
Syrian woodpecker	Seen or heard on three days. An excellent sighting near Noszvaj.
Black woodpecker	Seen or heard at Noszvaj on four days, sightings generally brief. Also in wooded areas of Bükk N.P.
Green woodpecker	Seen or heard daily, many sites.
Grey-headed woodpecker	Two seen well in Bükk N.P. on 19 <sup>th</sup> , heard on one other day.
Crested lark	Scarce, two at the Hortobágy N.P. on the 21 <sup>st</sup> . A very few elsewhere.
Skylark	Uncommon, singles on three days only.
Sand martin	Seen in small numbers over Lake Tisza on 18 <sup>th</sup> only.
Swallow	Widespread and common.
House martin	Widespread and common.
White wagtail	Widespread and frequent, often in good numbers.
Grey wagtail	Daily by lake in Noszvaj, frequent elsewhere in small numbers.
Tree pipit	A very few seen or heard on three days.
Red-throated pipit	A single heard on 18 <sup>th</sup> by Gerard only.
Wren	Occasional in wooded places.
Robin	Ditto
Black redstart	Daily and common at Noszvaj in particular.
Common redstart	Scarce, a single near lake Tisza on 18 <sup>th</sup> and two at Kiskunsag N.P. on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Whinchat	Passage birds noted in farmland on several days, max c10 on 19th.
Stonechat	Small numbers on roadside wires on three days.
Northern wheatear	Two in farmland on the 18 <sup>th</sup> was the only sighting.
Blackbird	Widespread and common
Song thrush	Less common than blackbird, mainly at Noszvaj.
Great reed warbler	A single immature bird at Lake Tisza on the 18 <sup>th</sup> was the only sighting.

Sedge warbler	A single at Lake Tisza on the 18 <sup>th</sup> was the only record.
Reed warbler	A single at Lake Tisza on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> was the only sighting.
Chiffchaff	Widespread and common in a range of habitats
Willow warbler	One alive and one dead at Kiskunsag N.P. on 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Goldcrest	A single bird heard at Bükk N.P on 20 <sup>th</sup> the only record.
Spotted flycatcher	A few birds recorded on four days.
Marsh tit	Daily around Noszvaj and in well wooded parts of Bükk N.P.
Coat tit	Occasional sightings at Noszvaj in particular.
Great tit	Widespread and frequent, especially around villages in wooded places.
Blue tit	Ditto.
Long-tailed tit	Occasional in small groups.
Penduline tit	25 at Lake Tisza on 18 <sup>th</sup> and three there on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
Nuthatch	Very frequent around Noszvaj and in other well wooded areas.
Treecreeper	Birds seen on two days only.
Short-toed treecreeper	Only definite on 17 <sup>th</sup> , when a single at Noszvaj.
Red-backed shrike	Up to ten on roadside wires and bushes on the 18 <sup>th</sup> , less common on three other days.
Great (northern) grey shrike	Occasional in small numbers on roadside wires and poles on four days.
Jay	Daily, widespread and common.
Magpie	Daily, widespread and frequent.
Jackdaw	A few only and only on two days.
Rook	Frequent in agricultural land, often with hooded crows.
Hooded crow	Widespread and frequent in agricultural land.
Raven	Occasional in small numbers, recorded on four days.
Starling	Daily, widespread and common.
House sparrow	Only recorded on two days and in small numbers.
Tree sparrow	Recorded daily, often in good numbers.
Chaffinch	Frequent in wooded places such as around Noszvaj and the Bükk N.P.
Greenfinch	Not uncommon around habitation.
Goldfinch	Widespread and frequent.
Linnet	Recorded in small numbers on one day only.

Hawfinch	Daily around Noszvaj, where usually flying over, maximum 20 on 18 <sup>th</sup> . Occasional elsewhere.
Yellowhammer	Occasional, usually in cultivation.
Rock bunting	A single heard by Gerard in Bükk N.P. on 17 <sup>th</sup> .

### **Butterflies (32 species)**

Large white	Dryad
Green-veined white	Great banded grayling
Small white	False grayling
Clouded yellow	Meadow brown
Berger's clouded yellow	Small heath
Eastern clouded yellow	Chestnut heath
Camberwell beauty	Wall brown
Peacock	Brown hairstreak
Red admiral	Small copper
Painted lady	Large copper
Comma	Sooty copper
Map	Adonis blue
Silver-washed fritillary	Holly blue
Dark green fritillary	Silver-studded blue
Queen of Spain fritillary	Chapman's blue
High brown fritillary	Common blue

### **Moths**

Hummingbird hawk-moth  
 Fox moth caterpillar  
 Small china mark  
 Blood-vein  
 Laced border  
 Silver 'y'

### **Other notable invertebrates**

Roman snail  
 Praying mantis  
 Blue-winged grasshopper  
 Southern hawker dragonfly  
 Migrant hawker dragonfly  
 Red-veined darter dragonfly  
 Winter damselfly  
 Glow-worm larva  
 Dung beetle  
 Whirli-gig beetle

### **Amphibians and reptiles**

Agile frog  
 Tree frog  
 Edible frog  
 Common toad  
 Fire-bellied toad  
 Marsh frog  
 Sand lizard  
 Grass snake  
 Aesculapian snake  
 Pond terrapin

### **Mammals**

Red deer  
 Roe deer  
 Red squirrel  
 Eastern hedgehog  
 Red fox  
 Striped wood mouse  
 Pygmy shrew  
 European suslik (ground squirrel)  
 Daubenton's bat