



ORIOLE BIRDING



TOUR REPORT HUNGARY 29TH APRIL – 5TH MAY 2019

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MONDAY 29TH APRIL – *Sunshine and light winds, 17C*

Our flight departed Stansted airport around 9am for the 2.5hr run down to Budapest, where we met with our colleague Gerard Gorman for our six day foray into Eastern Europe. It was a very pleasant afternoon as we headed east down the motorway, leaving the city behind and soon seeing many Common Buzzards, Kestrels and White Storks in the open countryside. After around an hour, we stopped at a picnic site at a roadside petrol station, and Gerard told us this was a good place to scan for **Eastern Imperial Eagle**. White Wagtail and Crested Lark were around the car park, and soon a large raptor loomed into view – it was indeed a young **Eastern Imperial Eagle**! Eventually the bird came closer and gave superb views as it soared around just above the main road. A little further on, and another quick roadside stop produced our first Tree Sparrows and a male Black Redstart, while Marsh Harriers became increasingly common over the rape fields. We soon reached an area known as Borsod grasslands, and taking a track into open country took us through agricultural land where Corn Bunting were common and the nominate race of Yellow Wagtail was everywhere. We stopped at a junction in the tracks, where a fall of **Whinchats** meant we could see eight in one sweep, a Hoopoe flopped across the fields and many more **Blue-headed Wagtails** were seen. As it had been dry, we were able to get the van further down the track, to a spot where a line of pylons crossed the fields. Here, on a purpose built nestbox, was a **Saker Falcon**! We hadn't expected to see one so early in the trip! The light was poor and the bird was distant, so we walked carefully a bit at a time, to narrow the distance. We ended up with some good views of the bird, which flew up and perched on the top of the pylon before returning to the box again. A magnificent bird! Skylark song filled the air, and a **Black Stork** circled over in the distance. We drove from here directly to our hotel in the Bukk Hills, where we would be based for the next three nights. **Collared Flycatcher**, **Hawfinch** and **Wood Warbler** were all to be seen right around the hotel – we couldn't wait for morning!



Subadult Eastern Imperial Eagle – not a bad start to the trip!

TUESDAY 30TH APRIL - *Sunny spells with thundery showers later, 16C*

We met at 7am for a pre-breakfast walk around the small park and adjacent woodland and enjoyed our first taste of the typical birds to be found in the Bukk Hills region. **Hawfinch** was very common, and would be throughout the day – we had several excellent perched views of both male and female

birds, and their sharp calls were a constant backdrop. **Black Redstart** was another species which would be familiar throughout the trip, and **Collared Flycatcher** too – we saw three pairs on our short walk, and had some really lovely views of the dashing males, singing from open perches in the understorey, but never sitting still for long. Woodpeckers were to be the main focus of our day, and that started with good views of a calling **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** before we retired to breakfast.



Collared Flycatcher – one of the commonest birds seen today!

Our day was basically spent driving short distances to various spots in the forest, taking a short walk and listening for calls, and then moving to a new spot. This gave us the opportunity to cover quite a bit of ground within a relatively small radius – we probably travelled no more than 15km from the hotel. Wonderful mature Beech forest with plenty of oak, horse chestnut and plane trees and lots of decaying wood meant one thing – woodpeckers! Our guide Gerard not only knows the area well, having lived in Hungary for many years, but is also an expert on woodpeckers and we not only saw seven species, but learned a lot about their feeding activity, behaviour and habitat preferences. **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** was seen again, with a pair performing nicely by one of our parking spots. **Middle Spotted Woodpecker** was also seen on three occasions during the day, with increasingly better views each time – it was interesting to watch this species adopting more of a foliage-gleaning feeding habit than the other species. **Great-spotted Woodpecker** was common, Green was heard and a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** gave some decent views in flight and fairly brief scope views perched at the top of a dead tree. All the while, we were enjoying excellent views of **Hawfinches**, and **Collared Flycatchers** were simply ubiquitous. **Common Nightingale** song was heard in many spots, and we did manage to see one, and overhead we noted several Ravens, Sparrowhawk and Buzzard. Nuthatch

and Common Treecreeper were among the other forest birds noted, and everything we saw gave pretty good views!



Black Woodpecker – amazing views of a pair at a nest this afternoon

In the afternoon, we made a coffee break in one of the small villages, adding singing **Serin** and a nice pair of **Black Redstarts**, while at another stop a distant large raptor displaying proved to be a **Lesser Spotted Eagle**. Heading back into the woodland, we pulled up by a territory for **Black Woodpecker** to see if there was any activity – we could certainly see that the birds had been around, with plenty of fresh workings and large holes in the trees! Initially we didn't see anything, but then a large, black bird was spotted moving through the trees at the back – promising! Sure enough, it was a **Black Woodpecker**, and we realised that the hole closest to us was clearly the one it was trying to enter. We moved back and found a spot where we could still see the hole, but where our outline was broken by overhanging trees. Sure enough, the bird came straight in and perched bang in the open for us. It was the female – the male immediately popped his head out of the hole and the two swapped

places, the male flying off calling. Presumably a change of shift on incubation of either eggs or very small young. An absolute privilege to see and what views!

A couple of stops to scan for raptors after this took us onto fairly open habitat with a good vista across open bushy countryside. A lone **Bee-eater** was seen, Lesser Whitethroats were in song and even a **Woodlark** appeared briefly. Some of the very best birding of the day was saved right to the end though, as we dropped down into a shallow valley with a small stream flanked by plane and poplar trees, and surrounding scrub. A **Cuckoo** perched up calling, but Gerard heard a **Wryneck** so we moved closer to try and find it. In one amazing purple patch we then had three **Wrynecks** calling around us, with several excellent perched views, and three **Golden Orioles** flashing around in the plane trees. These were typically elusive, but we eventually pieced together some lovely views by being patient and just hanging around in this excellent spot. A black and white woodpecker appeared, and proved to be our first **Syrian Woodpecker** of the day, and then a **Barred Warbler** broke out into song flight! We rounded off the day with great views of this stonking yellow-eyed *Sylvia*, occasionally song-flighting from the dense shrubs close to the track and perching in the open even long enough for everyone to see it through the scope. With Corn Bunting's jangling all around us, we ended up having to flee for the van as a fierce thunderstorm came towards us along the valley and ended our birding for the day.



Syrian Woodpecker – our 7th woodpecker species of the day!

WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY – *Sunny spells and breezy, 16C*

Our pre-breakfast walk around the small park in Noszvaj this morning produced yet ore good sightings of some of the species we had enjoyed yesterday, including a **Middle Spotted**

Woodpecker right overhead, great views of Collared Flycatchers and a pair of Hawfinches feeding in the car park just a few metres away! A Black Woodpecker was calling frequently as we walked around, and we twice saw it in flight high above. The only new species for the list was a Short-toed Treecreeper.



Hawfinch – a stunning male of a pair seen at close range before breakfast

After breakfast, we had planned to drive a short distance to a lovely limestone valley, with a few rocky outcrops and a beech forest running down inside the gorge. Our main target bird would be White-backed Woodpecker, essentially the only species we were missing from that group, and so we planned to spend the whole morning walking as far in as we needed to. Collared Flycatcher and Hawfinch were again common, and the song of Blackcap and Chiffchaff was everywhere. Wood Warbler were also encountered a few times, and along the first section of the walk where rocky outcrops and a small quarry were to be found, Rock Bunting was seen. A Black Woodpecker flew alongside us at close range as we got into the forested part of the gorge, and now we stepped up our hunt for our main target. Again, the workings of White-backed Woodpecker were plain to be seen, but to begin with we found only Great-spotted and Middle Spotted Woodpeckers. Eventually a White-backed Woodpecker appeared, and was seen quite well as it moved around in the canopy – better still it then worked its way out onto a sunny branch and sat there preening for several minutes. It then dropped right down onto the forest floor and began working away on some decaying logs lying on the ground, giving everyone the chance for a really good look at this lovely bird. Target in the bag, we carried on to a clearing, where we had a snack and scanned around for anything else we could find. The walk back produced mainly Hawfinch views, plus Scarce Swallowtail and Large Tortoiseshell butterflies.

We lunched in the nearby village where a couple of picnic tables provided a useful spot to sit down. Black Redstart was around as expected, but not much else. After coffee in a small bar, we were well recharged and for a change of scenery, Gerard took us to a small lake which had plenty of exposed mud at one end. A drake Garganey swam into view as we parked up, and already we could see a lot of waders! We spent an hour or so sorting through them – mainly Wood Sandpipers, but also with Redshank, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper and Ruff among them. Several Little-ringed Plovers could also be seen, and pride of place went to a Temminck's Stint creeping mouse-like around the muddy margins. Common Tern and an unseasonal Wigeon were other species noted!



White-backed Woodpecker – often the most difficult of the nine species available here

It was now already 3pm, so we decided to return to the little valley where we had finished the day yesterday – it had been so good then, and it didn't disappoint today either! **Wryneck** showed well again, and there was a constant backdrop of calling **Golden Orioles**. In contrast to yesterday, these put on a magnificent show, with two males perching up in full view for long periods in a favoured emergent thin tree. At one point, we watched them perched among four **Hawfinches**! Also around was a lovely purring **Turtle Dove**, and our first **Red-backed Shrike** of the tour – a fine male. **Barred Warblers** seemed to have increased overnight, with at least three now present. We had ridiculous views of one of them, which kept returning to a favoured song post. Once we had worked out where it liked to perch, we only had to stand quietly and wait. No problem seeing the barred underparts and staring yellow eye today! A **Common Nightingale** sang in the open, **Cuckoo** was calling and we just generally felt surrounded by birds. A fabulous way to round off the day.



Barred Warbler – exceptional views of this skulker today

THURSDAY 2ND MAY – *Sunny day in light winds, 20C*

Today we moved south to a new area for the next three nights, around Kiskunsag south of the capital Budapest. So it was mainly a travelling day but with several short birding stops en route – and very good ones they were too! First though, we had time for our usual hour of pre-breakfast birding just around the park close to the hotel. There seemed to be something new to see every morning here, and this morning started with a **Goshawk** bombing down out of the sky and down the road over our heads, like a missile! We think it maybe nailed one of the ducks on the ornamental lake! **Collared Flycatchers** showed brilliantly again, with a male at a nest hole, and we heard drumming and calling from the **Black Woodpeckers**. We had heard lots of **Wood Warblers** on the trip so far, but still needed a really good view, so we put that one to bed too just along the forest trail. As we returned towards the hotel, a **Wryneck** began calling and perched up beautifully right in the highest tree top, for scope views. Hawfinches almost don't get a mention any more, but of course we saw plenty of these as well, with the final bird of the session being a **Grey-headed Woodpecker** which called and then flew over the park and began drumming nearby.



Collared Flycatcher – we just can't get enough of them!

After loading up the van, we headed back down towards the motorway, though with a couple of short wetland stops along the way. The first, by a small reedbed with nesting Marsh Harriers, produced heard-only Great Reed and Savi's Warblers. The second, by more open fish ponds, was far more productive. We saw both **Great Reed Warbler** – singing right out in the open – and **Savi's Warbler** here. The latter included a pair chasing each other around in the reeds just below us, as well as a perched bird reeling. A **Penduline Tit** called and flew by, and in the surrounding bushes and small trees, were a singing Lesser Whitethroat and more surprisingly – a **Western Bonelli's**

Warbler. This elusive bird tantalised us by giving frequent bursts of its short trilling song, a bit like a Wood Warbler but more ‘chippy’, less sustained and less sibilant. We never did manage to see it, but it was a good record for the area. **Purple Herons** flew over on two occasions, and Marsh Harriers were just everywhere – we had five displaying together at one point. From here we hit the motorway, and headed west towards the capital.



Syrian Woodpecker by a supermarket car park!

Eventually we turned south after about two hours, and made our way through extensive Ash woodland and then into the start of the Kiskunsag national park area – a basin of lowland grassland and cultivated plains. Lunch stop was in the first bit of ‘new’ habitat we reached, and a male **Montagu’s Harrier** sailed along beside us as we pulled in! This proved to be an amazing spot – we had a **Stone Curlew** running around in the field next to us, brilliant views of at least four Monty’s, a breeding plumaged **Great White Egret** catching insects in the grass right in front of us and perhaps best of all, a flock of sixteen **Ruff** dropped in – virtually all males in full breeding plumage! This was as good as a ‘tick’ for some of the group, who had never seen them in this magnificent plumage before. A pair of **Mediterranean Gulls** were a nice surprise migrating low through the grasslands, and we also added more mundane Sand Martin and Curlew to the trip list. **Great Bustard** was a target for the next few days, so we were delighted to see a cracking male striding along the skyline here too – a second one then appeared and flew low in to join him. Brilliant! We then basically made our way slowly across the plain, stopping if we saw anything. Seven more **Great Bustards** were a nice roadside diversion, and in the same spot we saw lots of **Blue-headed Wagtails**, **Whinchat** and a lovely mixed flock of gulls on migration with several more Meds. Further on, a roadside colony of **Bee-eaters** entertained us, using a prominent dead tree as a feeding perch and dazzling us in the perfect light with their amazing colours. At one point, a **Turtle Dove** joined them and began purring – heavenly!

The afternoon was wearing on fast, and we had time for two more short stops. A **Suslik** by the roadside was our first, and we soon realised there was a small colony. This made us think it could be a good spot to scan for raptors! We didn’t see any large birds of prey, but did score with three fine **Red-footed Falcons**, one of which cruised right over our heads. Other common birds now included

Crested Larks, Stonechats and more **Bee-eaters**, while **Hoopoe** and a pair of **Little Owls** were also seen in this productive area. It was around 5.30pm as we pulled onto the drive of our lovely hotel, surrounded by extensive grounds of woodland and scrub. It could be another very interesting pre-breakfast amble in the morning!



Bee-eaters – a tree full of these colourful birds ended our day nicely

FRIDAY 3RD MAY – *Sunny spells and breezy, 16C*

Another full day exploring the Kiskunsag National Park region today. Our pre-breakfast walk around the hotel grounds was predictably productive, with Black Redstarts singing from the roof tops of the hotel buildings, and a new species in the form of a newly arrived **Spotted Flycatcher**. **Short-toed Treecreeper** showed well, and a female **Montagu's Harrier** flew over. Not long after, we picked up another harrier flying over in the opposite direction. Expecting the Monty's again, we were surprised to see a bird which was much paler underneath, with a broad, fingered 'hand' and more *accipiter*-like proportions – a ringtail **Hen Harrier**. Scanning the skies also paid dividends with a **Roller** which dived in from nowhere, but unfortunately landed out of view in the far side of a stand of poplars.

After breakfast, we set off to begin exploring the grasslands with a few short stops to look for **Red-footed Falcons** in particular. At our first roadside pull-off we had excellent views of a pair of Red-foots, with the female bringing in a vole from the adjacent fields and landing in a dead tree. A little further down the road though, we turned off and entered a disused property surrounded by low trees, and here a busy Rookery contained several pairs of **Red-footed Falcons**, setting up home in the old Rook nests. We spent a mesmerising half hour or so here watching the comings and goings – the Red-foots were surprisingly noisy and feisty birds, and we saw females fighting, inspecting nests, and

mating with the seemingly more docile males. The views were all at point blank range, and it was an utterly brilliant experience.



Red-footed Falcon – one of many seen today

A change of habitat next took us to some fish ponds, and a convenient lunch stop which produced sightings of **Purple Heron**, close up Cuckoo, our first Little Grebes, a **Hobby**, another pair of **Red-footed Falcons**, Wood Sandpiper and best of all – seven **Night Herons** roosting in a tree! All our picnic spots on the trip so far had produced some really brilliant birds! Another track nearby followed a canal with superb views of **Great Reed Warbler** signing right beside the van, and then alongside a small marshy area where we saw a pair of **Ferruginous Ducks**, **Red Crested Pochard**, Common Pochard and a really nice **Penduline Tit** which was gathering nest material from the reeds. We had heard a few on the trip so far, but this was the first proper sighting. Sedge, Reed and Savi's **Warblers** were all in song here too, and we had particularly good views of the Savi's scoped up. Our first **Spoonbills** flew over, and a calling **Hoopoe** perched up in a dead tree for us.

Gerard had to tear us away from this spot, but that's because he knew the next place we were stopping was even better! A wonderful marshy flooded area with reeds and sedges, muddy margins and excellent light, gave us over an hour of just wonderful birding. The pools were stuffed full of Ruff and Wood Sandpipers, but also lots of **Black-tailed Godwits** of the continental race *limosa*, which were very vocal and also seen mating, so maybe breeding nearby. Greenshank, Common Snipe, Avocet, **Black-winged Stilt** and huge flocks of distant Dunlin were also seen, while there were **Garganey** everywhere – perhaps over a dozen seen. A group of **Spoonbills** were resting, all in full summer finery, and regular passes from the local Marsh Harriers kept shuffling the pack for us. At one point, everything went up on the pools at the back – many hundreds of waders, Yellow-legged Gulls, and a fabulous flock of **White-winged Black Terns** which towered up into the dark sky,

flashing as they headed off over the distant trees. The culprit was an adult **Peregrine**, which bombed through low scattering everything. A **Spotted Redshank** in full summer dress was seen once the birds settled again, and Curlew and Shelduck were also noted. A really excellent area!



Savi's Warbler – good views of this species today around the fish ponds

After a quick coffee stop to rejuvenate in the local village, we headed back onto the plains to end the day with a couple of short stops to scan around. A flock of **Bee-eaters** and a calling **Quail** were at the first stop, and our third **Little Owl** of the day glaring at us from a chimney stack. Corn Buntings were everywhere in this habitat, and their jangling song, and the 'bloop-bloop!' of **Bee-eaters**, was a fantastic soundtrack. Further down the track, we found two **Great Bustards**, and then a large raptor loomed into view – it was a **Short-toed Eagle**. The bird was quite distant, but circled round for a while, occasionally hovering, and allowing everyone a chance to scope it. As we made our way back out along the same track, a stunning male **Red-backed Shrike** appeared on a bush right beside the van. It then chased a female out, and both of them flew up into a big bush and were joined by a **Barred Warbler**! Another wonderful, varied and easy going days birding in Hungary!

SATURDAY 4TH MAY – *Overcast with light to moderate rain, 12C*

Despite our worst day's weather on the tour so far, we enjoyed another stonking days birding! We sacked off the pre-breakfast walk, in favour for heading straight out to our first birding stop, which would be to an area west of the national park to try again for **Saker**. We had seen one on the first day, sitting in a nest box, but we wanted to try for better views. Once again, this meant visiting a particular pylon in an agricultural area, where a pair was known to be using an artificial nest box.

We pulled up in the rain and could see both a male and female **Saker** perched on the top of a pylon but around half a mile away – not great! Rolland knew a track where we could get closer, so we piled back in the van and headed there. As we drove down the track we could see that potentially we could get very close to the desired pylon. Rather than getting too close and flushing the birds though, we parked behind some bushes some distance away, and took another fairly distant (but improved) view through the scopes. We had the male bird perched head on and could see its pale head, narrow moustache and heavily streaked chest. Rolland told us how the pair prefer to hunt in tandem, and as if they were listening, they both took flight started coming towards us to perform a demonstration! We could now see the diagnostic dark underwing coverts on the much larger female, and the smaller male dived down and flushed up a Woodpigeon which she then proceeded to try and nail in mid air. We all stood open mouthed! The Pigeon got away, and both **Saker Falcons** returned to their pylon to perch again. We had definitely fulfilled our ambition of better views! Also along the track were several Wheatears, and a new bird in the form of a **Tawny Pipit**. We watched these for a while, and then realised that while we had been doing so, the **Sakers** had disappeared. This was soon explained though, as the female flew right past us carrying prey, followed by the male! An absolutely brilliant show – we had forgotten it was raining!

Next we moved to a complex of fish ponds, where we would spend most of the rest of the day. We opted to walk around the southern perimeter of this pretty large system, and see what we could find. The whole area was very birdy – there were Reed, Sedge, Great Reed and **Savi's Warbler** simply everywhere, and we had brilliant views of all of them. A male **Red-backed Shrike** popped up on a fence, and squadrons of **Spoonbills** flew by. At the first pond, we finally had a good scope view of a **Ferruginous Duck** in the edge of the reeds, and **Purple Herons** were flying back and forth all the time, giving some really nice views. A large raptor which circled into view turned out to be a cracking **Honey Buzzard**, which circled slowly past and then went into migration mode, powering off north into the clouds.



Great Reed Warbler – a very common species at the fish ponds

One of our main target birds here would be **White-spotted Bluethroat**, which was known to be holding territory here. We found the bird easily, singing from a reedy ditch right beside the path. Over the next twenty minutes, we had amazing views of it as it constantly moved from perch to perch singing. It never stayed in one place for long, and would also occasionally drop into a muddy creek to feed – alongside a Wood Sandpiper! Leaving the Bluethroat, we took a track north which bisected two large ponds, and here we had more great views of Savi's Warbler in particular. A colony of **Spoonbills** were tucked in among tussocky grass, and we could hear the chicks begging with a trilling call. Four **Cormorants** took off, with a smaller bird in tow – a **Pygmy Cormorant**! One we had been looking out for, but sadly the only one we found all day. Reaching a tower hide, we saw adult **Mediterranean Gulls** flying over, but better still an adult summer **Little Gull** was cruising round the nearest pond. A flock of **White-winged Black Terns** flew through, and not one but two **White-tailed Eagles** flew in and began fishing – we saw one making off with a huge carp! The sky was simply filled with hirundines, feeding low over the pools in the inclement weather – it really was an amazing spot.



Bluethroat – easy to see, difficult to photograph!

We had our rather late lunch overlooking the western most pond in the complex, and from here we could also see a distant lagoon which was full of small waders – we were working out how we might get there! Anyway, a **White-tailed Eagle** flew over again, and we also had a distant soaring **Black Stork** during lunch, as well as a single **White-winged Black Tern** and more of the same species seen earlier. A nice bonus though came in the form of an adult **Eastern Imperial Eagle**, circling round slowly over the distant grassland. It was a long way off, but through the scope we could still see the white feathering on its mantle. Meeting some local birders in a 4x4 who were doing the big day list, we discovered that they were going on to the wader scrape and would call us to let us know if the track was passable to our minibus. It was, so we headed there next. Wood Sandpipers, large numbers of **Ruff** and **Black-tailed Godwits**, **Garganey**, our first **Shovelers** and **Common Gulls** of the trip and

more views of the **Eastern Imperial Eagle** were on offer. A **White-tailed Eagle** also flew towards us and just as we were leaving, two **Black Storks** circled right over our heads. **Great Reed Warblers**, had been brilliant today, and the whole time we were here, two were shouting from the ditch behind us and giving ridiculous point blank views.



Great Bustard – amazing views of this male strutting his stuff

Our coffee stop in the town of Bugyi was rather later than normal at nearly 5pm – it had been a busy day! We still had time for one more stop though, which would be in the steppe area south of the town. Pulling up for a close male **Great Bustard**, we ended up seeing half a dozen of these magnificent birds, including one in full ‘foam bath’ display. **Montagu’s Harrier** was also seen, and a tern-like call overhead alerted us to our first **Collared Pratincoles**, which dropped down into a very distant field. Throw in a **Lesser Grey Shrike** hunting by the side of the track, and it made for a very productive last full day. There was not an awful lot left to try for tomorrow morning!

SUNDAY 5TH MAY – Heavy rain, 15C

Our last mornings birding was unfortunately plagued with pretty horrible weather as we planned to search the Kiskunsag National Park area for one or two missing species, namely Roller (which we had only glimpsed) and also River Warbler (which we were right on the cusp for in terms of migration). We set off from the hotel complex at 8am, and headed up the very rough road towards Bugyi which passes through grassland and cultivated steppe. Our first stop in the rain produced a superb Lesser Grey Shrike on a roadside bush, and as we scoped the bird it was replaced by a male Red-backed Shrike! Turtle Dove and Cuckoo were around as usual, and we saw an adult Eastern Imperial Eagle perched distantly on a dead tree, surrounded by observant Rooks! A bit further on, we scanned the fields where we had seen the pratincoles yesterday evening, but there was no sign. Five Great Bustards were seen though, and a pair of bedraggled Stone Curlews were standing out in a ploughed field. We continued on through the now torrential rain, and Rolland spotted two birds on the roadside wires – they were Rollers! We opted to park up and hop out for a look through the scope – hardly showing their best colours in this weather, but still nice close views. From here we went into Bugyi itself for a coffee and to dry out a bit, before planning our final move. We had about an hour before returning to the airport, so decided to stick with the plan and check a couple of spots for River Warbler. One of these was a ringing station with a tower hide, which at least allowed us a bit of shelter. We saw Sedge and Great Reed Warblers, Blackcap and Willow Warbler, but didn't pick up anything else. At another stop, in the ash forest where we had paused briefly a few days ago, a Black Woodpecker was feeding on a rotting stump right next to the car park entrance, and gave very close, if brief views, before flying off into the woods. A bedraggled Bee-eater was pretty much our last bird, before we made the short twenty minute hop to Budapest airport.



A Lesser Grey Shrike in the rain, one of our last trip birds

#	Common Name	Scientific name		29	30	1	2	3	4	5		
Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)												
1	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		■			■	■	■			
2	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>						■	■			
3	Garganey	<i>Spatula querquedula</i>				■		■	■			
4	Northern Shoveler	<i>Spatula clypeata</i>							■			
5	Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>				■						
6	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>				■		■				
7	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
8	Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>						■				
9	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						■	■			
10	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>						■	■			
11	Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>						■	■			
12	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>										
Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)												
13	Common Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>						H		H		
14	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
15	Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>							■			
Podicipedidae (Grebes)												
16	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>						■	■			
17	Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>										
18	Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>					■		■			
19	Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>										
Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)												
20	Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon)	<i>Columba livia</i>										
21	Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>			■	■	■	■				
22	Common Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
23	European Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
24	Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Otididae (Bustards)												
25	Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>					■	■	■	■		
Cuculidae (Cuckoos)												
26	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>			■	■	■	■	■	■		
Apodidae (Swifts)												
27	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>						■	■			
Rallidae and Gruidae (Rails, Coots and Cranes)												
28	Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>										
29	Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>										
30	Spotted Crake	<i>Porzana porzana</i>										
31	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>					■	■	■			
32	Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>		■			■		■			
33	Little Crane	<i>Zapornia parva</i>										
#	Common Name	Scientific name		29	30	1	2	3	4	5		
34	Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>										
Burhinidae (Thick-knees)												
35	Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicnemus</i>					■			■		

<i>Recurvirostridae and Charadriidae (Stilts, Avocets, Plovers and allies)</i>												
36	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>						▪	▪			
37	Pied Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>						▪	▪			
38	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>										
39	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>										
40	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		▪		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
41	Kentish Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>										
42	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>				▪		▪	▪			
<i>Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)</i>												
43	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>						▪	▪	▪	▪	
44	Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						▪	▪			
45	Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>										
46	Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>										
47	Broad-billed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris falcinellus</i>										
48	Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>										
49	Temminck's Stint	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>				▪						
50	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>										
51	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>						▪	▪			
52	Little Stint	<i>Calidris minuta</i>										
53	Eurasian Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>										
54	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>						▪				
55	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				▪		▪	▪			
56	Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>										
57	Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>						▪	▪			
58	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				▪		▪				
59	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>										
60	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>				▪		▪	▪			
61	Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				▪		▪	▪			
<i>Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)</i>												
62	Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>							▪			
<i>Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skuas)</i>												
63	Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>						▪	▪	▪	▪	
64	Little Gull	<i>Hydrocoloeus minutus</i>							▪			
65	Mediterranean Gull	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>						▪		▪	▪	
66	Caspian Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>								▪		
67	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>										
68	Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>										
69	Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>										
70	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>										
71	White-winged Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>							▪	▪		
72	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>										
73	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>				▪	▪	▪	▪			
<i>Ciconiidae and Phalacrocoracidae (Storks, Cormorants and Shags)</i>												
74	Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>		▪						▪		
75	White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>		▪		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
76	Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Microcarbo pygmeus</i>								▪		

#	Common Name	Scientific name		29	30	1	2	3	4	5		
77	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>						▪	▪			
Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)												
78	Great Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>										
79	Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>										
80	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>				▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
81	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>					▪	▪	▪			
82	Great White Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		▪			▪	▪	▪	▪		
83	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>						▪	▪			
84	Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>										
85	Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>						▪				
86	Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>						▪				
Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)												
87	Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>										
88	Eurasian Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>						▪	▪			
Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)												
89	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>										
90	Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circus gallicus</i>						▪				
91	Lesser Spotted Eagle	<i>Clanga pomarina</i>			▪							
92	Imperial Eagle	<i>Aquila heliaca</i>		▪					▪	▪		
93	Western Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>		▪		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
94	Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>					▪	▪	▪			
95	Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪				
96	Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>			▪		▪					
97	Black Kite	<i>Milvus migrans</i>										
98	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>							▪			
99	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
100	Long-legged Buzzard	<i>Buteo rufinus</i>										
Tytonidae and Strigidae (Owls)												
101	Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>										
102	Eurasian Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo bubo</i>										
103	Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>						▪	▪	▪		
104	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>				H						
105	Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>										
106	Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>										
Upupidae (Hoopoes)												
107	Eurasian Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>		▪	H		▪	▪	▪	▪		
Alcedinidae, Meropidae and Coraciidae (Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Rollers)												
108	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>										
109	European Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
110	European Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>						▪		▪		
Picidae (Woodpeckers)												
111	Eurasian Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>			▪	▪	▪	H	H	H		
112	Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocoptes medius</i>			▪	▪	H					
113	White-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos leucotos</i>				▪						

114	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪					
115	Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>			▪		▪	▪					
116	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dryobates minor</i>			▪	H							
117	Grey-headed Woodpecker	<i>Picus canus</i>			▪		▪						
118	Eurasian Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>			H		▪		▪				
#	Common Name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5				
119	Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>			▪	▪	H			▪			
Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)													
120	Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		▪	▪		▪	▪	▪	▪			
121	Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>					▪	▪					
122	Eurasian Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>						▪	▪	▪			
123	Saker Falcon	<i>Falco cherrug</i>		▪					▪				
124	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>						▪					
Laniidae (Shrikes)													
125	Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				▪			▪	▪	▪		
126	Great Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>											
127	Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>								▪	▪		
Oriolidae and Corvidae (Orioles, Crows, Jays, and Magpies)													
128	Eurasian Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>			▪	▪			▪	▪	▪		
129	Eurasian Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪					
130	Common Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>		▪				▪	▪	▪	▪		
131	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>						▪	▪	▪			
132	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>							▪	▪	▪	▪	
133	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		▪			▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
134	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪						
Panuridae and Alaudidae (Reedling and Larks)													
135	Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>								▪			
136	Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>			▪								
137	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		▪				▪	▪	▪	▪		
138	Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>		▪				▪	▪	▪	▪		
Hirundinidae (Swallows)													
139	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>						▪	▪	▪			
140	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
141	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪	▪				
Paridae (Tits)													
142	Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>											
143	Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>											
144	Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>			▪	▪							
145	Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montanus</i>											
146	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>			▪	▪	▪				▪		
147	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>		▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪		
148	Eurasian Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>						▪	▪				
149	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>			▪	▪			▪				
Sittidae and Certhiidae (Nuthatches and Treecreepers)													

150	Eurasian Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>			▪	▪	▪							
151	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>			▪									
152	Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>				▪		▪						
Troglodytidae (Wrens)														
153	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>			H	▪								
Regulidae (Kinglets)														
154	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>												
155	Common Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>												
Scotocercidae and Phylloscopidae (Bush and Leaf Warblers)														
156	Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>												
157	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪						
#	Common Name	Scientific name	29	30	1	2	3	4	5					
158	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>						H	▪	▪				
159	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H	▪	▪	H	H		▪				
Sylviidae (Sylviid Warblers)														
160	Icterine Warbler	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>												
161	Aquatic Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus paludicola</i>												
162	Moustached Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>												
163	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			▪		H	▪	▪	▪				
164	Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>												
165	Eurasian Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>					H	▪	▪					
166	Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>		H			▪	▪	▪	▪				
167	River Warbler	<i>Locustella fluviatilis</i>												
168	Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>					▪	▪	▪	H				
169	Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>												
170	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪	H	▪				
171	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>												
172	Barred Warbler	<i>Sylvia nisoria</i>			▪	▪		▪						
173	Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>			▪		▪	▪	H					
174	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>						▪	H	H				
Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)														
175	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>					▪	▪	▪					
176	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>			▪	▪	▪							
177	Common Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>		H	▪	▪	H	▪	H	H				
178	Bluethroat	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>							▪					
179	Red-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula parva</i>												
180	European Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>												
181	Collared Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>			▪	▪	▪			H				
182	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>												
183	Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪			
184	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>			▪			▪	▪	▪				
185	European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>			▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪	▪			
186	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			▪			▪	▪	▪	▪			
Turdidae and Sturnidae (Thrushes and Starlings)														
187	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>												

188	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>			■	■	■		■			
189	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
190	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Prunellidae (Accentors)												
191	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>										
Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)												
192	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>										
193	Western Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>		■			■	■	■	■		
194	White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
195	Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>							■			
196	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>										
197	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>										
Fringillidae (Finches)												
198	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>		■	■	■	■	■		■		
199	Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>		■	■	■	■					
200	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>										
#	Common Name	Scientific name		29	30	1	2	3	4	5		
201	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■			
202	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
203	Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>										
204	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
205	European Serin	<i>Serinus serinus</i>			■	■	■					
206	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>										
Emberizidae (Old World Buntings)												
207	Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
208	Rock Bunting	<i>Emberiza cia</i>				■						
209	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			■	■	■	■				
210	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>					■	■	■			
Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)												
211	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
212	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Additional Species												
213	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				■	■	■	■			
214	Western Bonelli's Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>					H					
215	Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>						■	■			
216	Red Crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>						■	■			
217	Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus michahellis</i>					■	■	■			
218	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>						■				
219	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>							■			
220	Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>							■			