



Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

36 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0PX

Telephone: 01603 300552

www.honeyguide.co.uk E-mail: chris@honeyguide.co.uk



Hungary
24 – 31 May 2017

Participants

Peter and Elonwy Crook
Malcolm and Helen Crowder
Kate Dalziel
Jeremy Galton

Ray and Jackie Guthrie
Ken Leggett
Gill Page
Colin Taylor

Leaders

Chris Gibson and Gábor Orbán

Report by Chris Gibson

Our hosts at Kondor Lodge: Gábor Orbán and Andrea Katona.

Ecotours www.ecotours.hu and Kondor Ecolodge and <http://www.kondorecolodge.hu>

Photos in this report were all taken during the course of this holiday.

Cover: black woodpecker (CT), golden oriole (JG), poppies and nodding thistles in the heat haze (CG).

Below: the group and Gabor, all wearing poppies! (Zollly).



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also supports conservation of the wildlife that we enjoyed in our host country. In Hungary this year our donation was £550, £40 per person topped up by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust. It went to the Czech Republic Ornithological Club, which is a voluntary group that designs, creates and puts out hundreds of nestboxes in Kiskunság National Park. They check the boxes, ring the birds, send all the data to BirdLife Hungary and later they come to clear the nestboxes. There are more than 300 nestboxes just for rollers, plus many special ones for little owls, plus a few for red-footed falcons and platforms for saker falcons, white-tailed and imperial eagles.

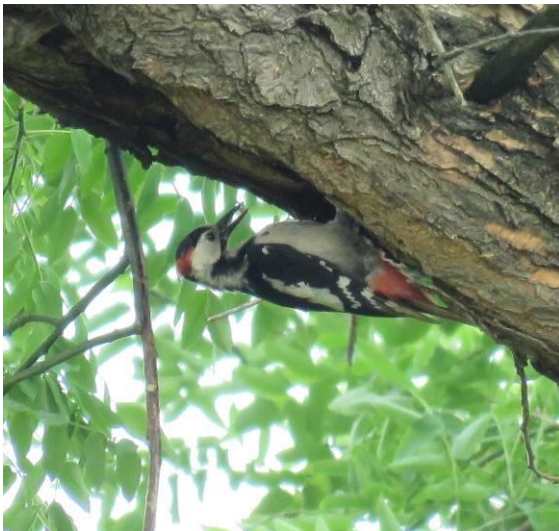
The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 and up to July 2017 is £117,457.

DAILY DIARY

Day 1, Wednesday 24 May – the journey there...

A fairly early start at Gatwick saw most of the group assembled, and brought us to Budapest at lunchtime, where the gathering was completed with Ray and Jackie, who had flown in earlier; Gábor and Andrea, our hosts; and Zolly, our driver for the week. It was very warm and humid – the previous day had seen damaging storms and floods in the area – and low clouds still hung ominously. As is traditional, our first birds were house martins, the archetypal airport bird, but as we drove through the flat, green countryside, others were quickly added to the list: familiar fare such as swallow, starling and kestrel, with a few signs that we were no longer at home, especially a male hen harrier quartering a large arable field. What was especially striking was that the stage of leaf and floral development was very similar to that in the UK, despite our location considerably farther south and east.

A short coffee stop in Ócsa was next to a 13th century church which bears the scars of past conflicts in the form of grooves in the walls worn away by the sharpening of Turkish sabres. This gave Gábor the chance to start to illuminate the trip with his extensive knowledge of the historical, social and cultural factors which have helped shape Hungary over the centuries, and have contributed to the wealth of wildlife and landscapes we were soon to see. Numerous black redstarts sang, perched and fed on the walls and houses around the village, and a Syrian woodpecker nest hole was being attended regularly by both parents, bringing food to and removing faecal sacs from the chicks. Among the numerous house sparrows, a scattering of tree sparrows gave us a great opportunity to compare and contrast the two species, and another hen harrier flew low overhead, trailing some vegetation, perhaps nest material. Several large horse-chestnut trees under which we had parked the bus bore the leaf scars of the horse-chestnut leaf-miner moth *Cameraria ohridella*, but nowhere near as abundantly as we see in the UK: established here for much longer than our recent arrivals, it has presumably had time to accrue a set of parasites and pathogens which prevent disfiguring outbreaks of the intensity we are used to seeing.



Syrian woodpecker at the nest hole; lax-flowered orchid (CG)

Next stop, a few kilometres farther on was at a wet ash/alder wood; the hope was to hear river warbler, but the rising wind put paid to that, although cuckoos and a song thrush continued singing. Turning our attention to the invertebrate world, a large white plume-moth and a stretch-spider kicked off the 'all things and every thing' theme of the week, while the adjacent marshes (sadly out of bounds) supported large numbers of orchids, particularly lax-flowered, recognisable even at a distance. The woodland edge had elder and dogwood in full flower, while greater celandine, comfrey and Solomon's-seal added to the mix.

By now, it was starting to rain, and the rest of the journey was made in the gloom and damp, albeit enlivened by flashes of colour from roadside rollers, hoopoes, and as we approached Kondor Lodge, a soggy bee-eater, a solitary taste of the delights to come. Then time to unpack, and for some, despite the weather, a local potter to get a glimpse of the hawfinches and great spotted woodpecker in the garden, and listen to the liquid calls of golden orioles ringing through the adjacent woodland. Numerous Millwall bugs festooned the tracksides, seemingly oblivious to the weather, and as evening approached, so the rain cleared, proving to be the last time we would be searching for waterproofs in the entire holiday.

And so to dinner: a lovely traditional spread of goulash soup, followed by soft pasta with a cottage cheese sauce and 'pork scratchings', and then a cakey pud, all dietary needs catered for, and all washed down with Bull's Blood and local beer. Well-fed and excited by the delights to come, an early night was had by all, happily drifting off to sleep to the sound of the frogs in the pond.

Day 2, Thursday 25 May – the Kunpustza steppes and other habitats close to Kondor

The day dawned bright and sunny, so despite our long day of travel yesterday, several of the group were up and about before breakfast, soaking up the songs of orioles and turtle doves, a red squirrel in the forest, and Queen-of-Spain fritillaries, a lot less active than during the heat of the day.

We spent the whole day within a few kilometres of Kondor Lodge, a series of short drives and longer stops to take in the surprisingly varied habitats of the region, from open sandy plains, to forests and plantations, and marshland and ponds. The day started with us looking over a large area of dry grass, with numerous susliks (ground squirrels), and ended close (but not too close) to a white-tailed eagle nest, with both parents flying around and calling to each other and their still-young chicks.

In between, the birds delivered a rainbow cornucopia: dozens of bee-eaters, numerous rollers, several hoopoes, red-backed and lesser-grey shrikes, all predatory on the insect and reptile populations. Other larger predators included a couple of short-toed eagle sightings, at one stage in the air with four other raptors – common buzzard, marsh harrier, kestrel and hobby – and white storks attracted by insects and other prey disturbed by farming activities.

The flowers were equally diverse: lax-flowered orchids in the damp patches, bug orchids in drier spots, a range of pinks, campions and catchflies, greater yellow-rattle, knapweeds, and patches of steppe-grass (perhaps more evocatively known as angels'-hair). Particularly lovely were the nodding thistles and purple mulleins, standing out from the lower sward. Naturally, the floral feast was attracting butterflies, mostly chestnut heaths and common blues, with a few silver-studded, Chapman's and green-underside blues, while fritillaries included marsh, knapweed and lesser spotted, plus an array of day-flying moths, such as burnet companion, clouded buff, silver-barred and speckled yellow. It was difficult to know in which direction or distance to look.



Purple mullein (JG); bee-eaters (HC).

Not all of the plants are equally welcome though. The Hungarian steppes are subject to the damaging ecological effects of non-native invaders, many of which were all too apparent, including false acacia (spreading from the plantations where it is nurtured as a nectar resource for apiculture) and Russian olive (which at least has the virtue of an indescribably heady scent). And perhaps worst of all, dense stands of milkweed running rampant through woodland and grassland alike. The inherent paradox between one branch of Government promoting certain of these species to benefit honey production, and another branch, the National Park Authority, spending vast sums of money trying to eradicate them is clearly a huge frustration for local conservationists.

After a few minutes of excitement when the bus became stuck in deep sand, we took lunch in the relative luxury (and shade) of a café, overlooking a pond which was home to noisy aggregations of edible frogs, and (no coincidence!) a very large grass snake. Broad-bodied chasers and emperor dragonflies skimmed the surface, and Jeremy earned his lunch by spotting a lesser purple emperor butterfly, at rest high in the canopy of a tree.

A male penduline tit made regular, if fleeting, appearances in the trees, and a black woodpecker flew low over us and the pond in its usual, almost reptilian, fashion.

A walk down the adjacent nature trail through the woods and Peszéradacs Meadows, past probably the largest purpose-built bat hibernaculum I have seen, then brought us further sightings of black woodpecker, along with icterine and sedge warblers, and nightingale. Common and silver-studded blues were salting around puddles in the path, and the grassland had large, almost orchid-like spikes of *Silene viscosa*. Then to our final destination, the previously-mentioned white-tailed eagle nest site, and unsurpassable views of not only the eagles, but also a singing wryneck. A fitting end to a long, but superb, day.



Watching the wryneck (CG).

Day 3, Friday 26 May – Tisza Oxbows

Several of us gathered for a pre-breakfast walk alongside the former Lake Kondor. If the lake hadn't lost its water a few years ago, I think it would have been difficult to drag ourselves away from this all week. As it was, it still produced singing woodlark and quail, barking roe deer, breeding bee-eaters and, surprisingly almost our only sightings of the week, a movement of around 40 common swifts overhead, suggesting migration was still under way after a cold late spring. Queen-of-Spain fritillaries were very obvious basking on the track, and both Essex skipper and meadow brown showed themselves for the first time on the trip, while there also appeared to have been a large emergence of garden chafers.

After breakfast, we headed out to the eastern edge of the national park, and the oxbow lakes, marshland and woodland close to the River Tisza. The woodlands proved rather frustrating as many of the hoped-for woodpeckers and flycatchers seemed reluctant to come out and play, apart from single great and middle spotted by their respective nest holes. Chiffchaffs and chaffinches constituted much of the woodland song, the latter with its characteristic terminating 'chick', great spotted woodpecker fashion, hinting at our south-easterly location within Europe. But the invertebrates at least could be relied upon, with Roman snails on the paths, scorpion-flies, longhorn micromoths, an array of beetles and bugs, and a couple of common glider butterflies which settled obligingly for the photographers.

Moving onto the marshes, fringed by the unusual-looking alien shrub false indigo, the sward was in good flower, with foamy patches of meadow-rue, purple marsh orchids and pink ragged-robin. As we continued, the sound of waterbirds became ever more apparent, but it was only at the top of the lookout tower that we realised why: just over the adjacent scrub lay a lovely, reed-fringed, waterlily-covered oxbow lake. Numerous whiskered terns danced over the water hawking for insects, several ferruginous ducks rested among the coots, and pygmy cormorants, purple herons, and great and little egrets competed for our attention with the marsh harriers hunting in every direction. Norfolk hawkers and scarlet darters added their dash of insect interest, as did the cardinal fritillaries nectaring on the marshland plants.

We stopped for lunch in the local churchyard, set atop a (low) hill with views over the village one way, and down to the marshes the other. A Syrian woodpecker put in a brief appearance, together with an array of firebugs of all ages on the church walls, and an impressive assassin bug *Nagusta goedelii* which seemed to take a keen interest in Kate's rucksack!

Walking down to the nearest lake proved a rather smelly experience, on account of a very badly decomposing beaver next to the path, but it couldn't take away from the wetland spectacle. Hundreds of noisy black-headed gulls shared the sky, water and islands with black and whiskered terns, great cormorants, spoonbills, black-winged stilts, and two charming black-necked grebe families, the chicks in each case riding on one of the parents' back: waterbirds everywhere for all to see. A great reed warbler sang loudly out in the open, although a reeling Savi's warbler remained obstinately immersed in the reeds. To cap it all, a white-tailed eagle drifted over, causing predictable mayhem among all the other birds.

A large copper flittered along the reedy edge, and eventually we managed to track down the source of the musical 'poop' calls, a fire-bellied toad not quite in a rocky crevice on the water's edge. Celery-leaved buttercup and flowering-rush provided a splash of colour in the shallow water, while a European pond terrapin basked on the far bank in the intense sunlight.

As we headed homewards, a short diversion was needed to take in the next of Gábor's 'surprises'. Set in a rather uninspiring arable landscape there was a huge electricity pylon. On the pylon there was a nestbox with two chicks, and eventually their parents were tracked down on the superstructure: a pair of sakers, taking advantage of the national conservation programme for this typical, but scarce, steppe falcon. Even at a range of a kilometre, their pale colour and large size were apparent, especially when a buzzard came too close and spurred the adults into action. This in turn attracted kestrels and a hobby into mutual combat, while a plucky lapwing took issue with everything near his territory. Several blue-headed wagtails, including one wonderfully bright male, fed in the field margins, themselves very different to what we are used to, blooming with cornflower, corn-cockle and eastern larkspur.

Finally a supermarket stop was called for, to replenish our stocks of drinking water and wine, both of which were welcome on our return to Kondor Tanya.



Cardinal and Queen-of-Spain fritillaries, illustrating the size difference, and blue-headed wagtail on the very fragrant but non-native *Elaeagnus angustifolia*, aka Russian olive (JG).

Day 4, Saturday 27 May – Böddi-szék saline lagoons and 'Snakey channel' fish ponds

Before breakfast, those who wanted to make the most of their time here scattered to the winds. Colin came back with tales and memories of black woodpecker; Kate watched a red squirrel emptying the garden bird-feeders; and I explored more distantly, but without finding anywhere as good as that on our very doorstep.

Another warm and sunny day, it was getting seriously hot by the time we arrived at the saline lagoons. Isolated from river flows, these large wetlands are fed by groundwater, and evaporation by the hot sun concentrates salts in the water, leaving a distinctive white, crystalline fringe around the shallows. Whiskered terns flew over the water, white storks stalked the fields, and a couple of cranes flew in, presumably part of the recently (naturally) re-established local breeding population. Several stunning large coppers flew around the margins, sufficiently exciting to drag everyone's eyes from the birds, as did Norfolk hawkers, and scarce blue-tailed and southern emerald damselflies. The fringes of the lagoons supported numerous salt-tolerant plants, including sea club-rush (familiar to us as a coastal plant only) and the white flowered *Lepidium crassifolium*. Each group of trees in the open vistas around us seemed to support kestrels and/or red-footed falcons, many using the nest boxes for breeding.

Next stop, for coffee, was in the middle of the vast plains – no realistic chance of shade, so we didn't stay out for long. Spoonbills flew overhead and curlews around the damper depressions; the ever-vigilant Jeremy spotted a distant white-tailed eagle; and examination of the flowering clumps of Danzig and tufted vetches revealed good numbers of willow emerald damselflies and large soldier-flies, the flecked general *Stratiomys singularior*.

Farther on we came to the heart of the site with its tumbledown farm buildings, shaded picnic area, and even a raised lookout tower, though given the state of disrepair of the steps most took my warning advice ("strictly at your own risk") to heart... Anyway, it was a great spot for lunch, watching lesser grey shrikes flycatching, white storks and marsh harriers spiralling ever upwards in the thermals, Rambur's pied shield bugs on black horehound, and everywhere mating swarms of a St Mark's fly *Bibio hortulanus*.



Large copper, the “at your own risk” viewing tower and southern emerald damselfly (HC).

After lunch, we resumed our trip to an area of freshwater fishing ponds, having first rid the bus of horse-flies. Peter managed the amazing feat of catching three in one pot, but no horse-flies were harmed in the course of the holiday! Being Saturday and sunny, it was rather busy with anglers, picnickers and their families, but who can blame them? It certainly didn't stop us seeing terrapins and an icterine warbler. And the Odonata were simply magnificent, with huge numbers of four-spotted chasers and white-legged damsels, together with scarce chasers, dainty damselfly and white-tailed skimmers. Nightingales sang and showed briefly, while penduline tits were heard and glimpsed in the riverside willows, and just as we were re-boarding the bus, Colin picked out a marsh warbler singing from the opposite bank.

A little farther on we reached a sluice on the river, where dozens of (mostly male) beautiful demoiselles adorned the emergent vegetation, common terns flew and fished in the channel, and several night herons were roosting in the trees. Then a very final stop on the last stretch home produced singing Savi's warbler, several marsh harriers and lots of rollers. Back at the ranch, Andrea had again been let down by the plumber so there was no significant water: once again, several happily substituted drinking for washing!

Day 5, Sunday 28 May – Kun hill, wood near Ócsa

Another sunny dawn, heating up even more rapidly than on previous days, everyone who ventured out before breakfast commented on how quiet it was, relatively speaking, in comparison with yesterday. Perhaps it was the heat, or maybe just because the birds were having Sunday off? A couple of fox moths had come to the outside light among the more familiar fare of white and water ermines, riband waves and marbled white-spots, and before we departed for the day we managed to connect Gill with the garden hawfinches at last.

As we drove through the landscape back towards Budapest, often on very bumpy roads, everything started to become strangely familiar: very extensive steppe plains, interspersed with poplar and conifer plantations, and arable cultivations of varying degrees of intensity and irrigation: for those of us from East Anglia, it was Breckland writ large. A short stop by a dramatic red poppy field for group photos, and then we headed to the Kun Hill, a burial mound cum vantage point cum flood refuge from early historic times. Only 10m or so in height, such was the lack of other relief that it opened up sweeping vistas for tens of kilometres. Buzzards, kestrels and marsh harriers hunted in all directions, and several roe deer grazed unconcernedly, while quail and susliks called around us. And then only a few hundred metres away, in a dramatic flurry an imperial eagle floated into view, dwarfing its attendant harrier, drifted around for several minutes before landing in a distant field, close to a known breeding copse, and disappearing.

At a coffee stop on a bridge across a wide, reed-fringed drain, we were immediately greeted by the flypast of a pair of little bitterns, which continued on and off for the next half hour. At least four birds were seen, with another male barking from a small patch of reeds, at least when it could be heard above the glorious cacophony of great reed warblers.



Imperial eagle
with marsh harrier (CG).

Moving on again, almost field by field, the first produced a 'pseudo-bustard', which turned out to be a concrete post, whilst the next saw several collared pratincoles flying and feeding high overhead, along with excellent views of a lesser grey shrike feeding in a newly-cut hay field. Then Bingo!: at the next stop, a group of five young male great bustards, much closer to the road than we had expected. And our joy was complete when an adult male, almost assuming display posture, popped up in the adjacent field and then strode over to the rest of the group. A superb spectacle, both for us and for a family of Gábor's friends from the nearby village. A much closer pratincole and a Mediterranean gull completed the scene, so by way of celebration (and refuge from the sweltering heat) it was off to the village cake shop for lunch...

For the afternoon, we returned to the wet woodland we had visited briefly on our journey from the airport, for a longer walk in the welcome (albeit mossie-rich) shade. Bird-wise it was rather quiet, apart from chiffchaffs, a short-toed treecreeper and several great spotted woodpeckers, but there were plenty of other points of interest. The wooded rides produced our only swallowtail of the trip, along with speckled woods and commas, a lovely longhorn beetle *Agapanthia villosoviridescens*, and most dramatically a male stag beetle flying just below the canopy. Plants included small balsam, crested cow-wheat and white helleborine; a grass snake swam across one of the pools; and numerous agile frogs showed their agility by leaping to safety in the surrounding vegetation when disturbed from the trackside. All apart from one, which opted for stillness and camouflage as its defence, and gave everyone the chance to see it properly.

We returned to Kondor Tanya a little earlier than usual, around 5 o'clock, for a spell of relaxation in the garden, before an early dinner and assembling for a dusk walk. Song thrushes, blackbirds and cuckoos were all still in song when the first nightjar started churring at 20.40. And for the next half hour, we were treated to probably three singing males, also 'cuicking' and wing-clapping, and sightings both in flight and at rest in a tree. Noctules and common pipistrelles were seen and bat-detected, and our walk home was illuminated, however faintly, by the light from several glow-worms, Jupiter and the new Moon. Enjoying the chorus of sound as we passed the pond, mostly green toads and common tree-frogs, and seeing an ant-lion by the outside light completed our nocturnal activities, as the moth trap sampled the nightlife in the meadow.

Day 6, Monday 29 May – Apaj bee-eaters colony, Big fish ponds, Red-footed falcon site

While I searched the meadow for wayward moths outside the trap at first light, Colin and Jeremy headed back to the nightjar clearing, and came back excited by their close encounters with black woodpeckers and from locating a golden oriole nest high in the very tree we had been standing beneath last night.



Eyed hawkmoth (HC).

After breakfast, we examined the contents of the moth trap. It was certainly pretty full, despite the fact that the temperature had dropped considerably overnight. The haul included c20 cream-spot tigers, six fox moths, two each of feline and poplar kitten, several white ermines, and a small elephant-hawk – and these were just the ones with mammalian names! There were also another three species of hawk, two of lappet, buff-tip and chocolate-tip, not surprisingly given the surrounding forest many of them being either poplar- or pine-feeders as larvae, and in total more than 50 species. Almost all were species which are also found in the UK, with just a few notable exceptions including the newly-established alien from north America, fall webworm, and the small green 'macro the size of a micro' *Earias vernana*.

Once the photographs and moth tidy-up were over, we headed back into the steppes to a similar area (and bumpy roads!) as yesterday. First stop was a wonderful vantage point overlooking at short range a bee-eater bank, a colony of some 200 pairs. And we happily spent an hour enveloped by the sight and sound of these avian jewels going about their business – feeding, resting, flying, excavating and sunbathing – before having a welcome cup of coffee, while admiring the almost black flowers of monk's-wort.

Then on to a series of large fish ponds. While the commercial ponds were pretty devoid of birds, the conservation ponds, created as a requirement of the permission to develop the whole enterprise, were teeming: more red-crested pochards than Gábor had ever seen there before, breeding spoonbills, ferruginous ducks, purple herons, to list just a few. Every few minutes a group of marsh terns would materialise as if from nowhere; these were mostly black terns, but with a few whiskered and white-winged black to complete the set. The sound of great reed warblers was almost deafening, although occasional pauses allowed the song of reed warblers and calls of bearded tits to come to the fore. Our vantage point on a raised platform gave panoramic views, and before long we picked up a white-tailed eagle heading our way.

It dived into one of the ponds, and flew heavily off, stopping occasionally to rest, with a large fish in its talons, as always mobbed by hooded crows and marsh harriers. The shade from the platform was too good an opportunity to miss, so we took lunch there, the ground-level perspective giving good views of bearded tit, reed and great reed warblers, Norfolk hawkers and a lesser emperor.

Moving slowly on, we came to a very shallow, almost drained pond, with a range of waders on show: stilts and avocets, curlew, black-tailed godwits, redshank and spotted redshank, and a couple of dunlin. Two night herons flew from the reed fringes and our first gadwall of the trip consorted with a small flock of mallards. Farther on we were able to admire some of the management tools used to maintain this superb, albeit man-made, area, the roving flocks of grey Hungarian cattle (with impressive horn spans) and black water buffalo.

The main afternoon venue was in the perhaps surprising surroundings of a stabling and equestrian recreation centre. Set within a sparse ash and acacia wood, the trees supported a substantial rookery. While some of the original occupants were still around, they had largely completed breeding, and many of the nests had been taken over by red-footed falcons, seen superbly at rest, at nest and in flight. An adult white stork on its pylon nest shaded the well-grown chicks, eventually revealing a full set of four, and as we searched in vain for a close, singing golden oriole, we chanced upon a roosting long-eared owl, looking for all the world like a hanging bunch of ash keys in the tree.



Female red-footed falcon (CG), white stork with chicks (JG) and long-eared owl (KD).

The journey home produced little more – probably as a result of drowsiness brought on by the now-intense heat – apart from excellent views of roller and little owl by a bridge close to Kondor Tanya, but as we pulled in we were greeted excitedly by Andrea wanting to show us the mating pair of poplar hawk-moths that she had found. Finally, after dinner we headed out to the former lake to try and catch up with the scops owl which had been heard a couple of times earlier in the week. Nothing doing on that front, although the sound of several quails, numerous field crickets, and a barking roe deer offset any disappointment.

Day 7, Tuesday 30 May – Local steppes, Fulophaza sand dunes, Lake Kolon

Many of the group elected to visit the golden oriole nest before breakfast, and all came away satisfied (and with neck-ache from the craning!). Still under construction, the nest was being attended by at least two females and an adult male, the latter of which gave virtuosic singing bouts when other males got too close, and also saw off a marauding jay with a twisting, turning flight, and brilliant yellow flashes in the clear blue sky. Otherwise though, the early morning was quiet apart from a tree pipit in song close by.

As we gathered after breakfast it was appreciably hotter than on previous days, and with little or no breeze, promising to get hotter still – perhaps with that in mind, and for the chance of relaxing in the lovely surroundings of the Lodge, a few decided not to join the main trip today.

We travelled initially to a nearby extensive steppe area, where rollers performed superbly, perching, flying, rolling and eating a snake. A little owl also showed briefly around its nest site in a tumbledown building. The grassland all around us was simply glorious, a blaze of flowering colour, with white dropwort, purple knapweed, yellow rattle and dyers' greenweed, and blue meadow clary among many others, including better bug orchids than previously and our only spider orchid of the trip, still in flower. Naturally the flowers were busy with insects and other invertebrates: six-spotted burnet and forester moths, pristine cardinal and purple-shot copper butterflies, many red assassin bugs, an extra-waspy wasp-beetle *Plagionotus floralis* and several crab-spiders (yellow *Thomisus onustus*, white and yellow form female *Misumenia vatia*, vivid green male *Misumenia*, and candy-striped *Runcinia grammica*) were just some of the delights. It was so diverse that it was hard to drag ourselves away, but eventually the lure of shade at the next stop grew too much...



A roller, shimmering in the sunshine (JG) and mating green-underside blues (HC).

Just a few kilometres away lay a series of remnant sand dunes, the core of which is strictly protected and thus unavailable to us. But the accessible area is still a remarkable sight so far from the sea, where we expect to see sand dunes, even though they are largely covered in developing woodland, much of it of non-native. An easy path (although no takers for the trim-trail!) led us through dense patches of birthwort, supporting southern festoon caterpillars in a range of development stages. An ant-lion pit on the track, after a little excavation, yielded a larva (called a 'doodle-bug' in north America), little more than a stomach with jaws, which rapidly manoeuvred itself back into the loose sand as we watched. Like us seeking shade from the sun, a male green lizard was resting close to the path, but seemingly oblivious to the heat a singing tree pipit gave a virtuoso performance; the shaded picnic site proved a strong draw for us, and by popular request became our lunch spot.

Then on to Lake Kolon, a huge reedbed which has been subject to very positive restoration works in recent years to re-establish open water habitats. The verges and tracksides around the lake had yet another invasive non-native plant, in this case the orange daisy-flowered *Zinnia*, attractive perhaps but unwanted certainly. As we explored the raised hide and viewing screen, we were faced with hundreds of dragonflies, most of which were yellow-spotted whitefaces, while other insects included tawny cockroaches and some lovely picture-winged flies, both seemingly using the broad, flat milkweed leaves as a basking surface. A male marsh harrier made a series of close fly-pasts as we watched from the hide, and great egrets were toing and froing all the time around their breeding colony in the centre of the reedbed. A squacco heron, several pygmy cormorants and a few ferruginous ducks completed the scene, as a black woodpecker flew below the assembled throng on the high platform: sadly, most were looking the wrong way...

As a grand finale, we went down to the water's edge and were greeted by Örs, an NGO volunteer who told us fluently about the history and restoration of the site, and then gave us a delightful, tranquil electric boat trip around the 30ha or so of newly-opened water. Squacco herons, great egrets, pygmy cormorants and marsh harriers provided the bird focus, but it was the totality which left a lasting impression. Tall reeds, hot sunshine, still waters covered in white water-lilies and yellow bladderwort, and everywhere dragonflies and damselflies. Many were whitefaces, but Norfolk hawkers, lesser emperors and the almost iridescent green downy emerald all added to the show.



At Lake Kolon: great egret and pygmy cormorant (JG).

Back on land, Örs took us to see *Epipactis bugacensis*, one of the rarest plants imaginable in that it is found only in this small part of Hungary and named after the local village, Bugac. Sadly not yet quite in flower, it nonetheless acted as a full stop to a wonderful tour, full of all things of all sorts.

Back at the lodge, Colin had had a productive day pounding the tracks around Kondor; Peter and Elonwy had been more leisurely, but Elonwy in particular had come up trumps with a lesser spotted woodpecker feeding outside the sunken hide. Everyone was happy, and so we went into the final evening meal, with Best Bits, review, thanks and general merriment!

Day 8, Wednesday 31 May – Homeward bound...

A gentle start allowed ample time for packing, and a last wander around the locality, or simply relaxing in the garden, watching the woodpeckers, hawfinches and grass snakes. Then after thanks and goodbyes to Gábor and Andrea, we were whisked expertly back to the airport by Zolly in a little over an hour, where we bade farewell to Ray and Jackie who had opted to stay on for a few days. With the temperature rising to even greater levels than any time earlier in the week and a haze developing, it seemed that the unseasonable weather we had been experiencing for the past few days was unlikely to continue. As is so often the case, Honeyguide in Hungary was blessed with good wildlife, good weather, and great company!

The Best Bits

As is now a traditional part of any Honeyguide holiday, I asked everyone to come along to the last evening meal prepared to say what their best bits of the week were. The range of those highlights just goes to show the diversity of wildlife and wild spaces we had immersed ourselves in for the past few days.

Ray	Gábor, for his intimate knowledge of the area, Chris for his knowledge of all kinds of wildlife, and Helen, for organising the group which gelled so well; wildlife highlights have to be the rollers rolling, and white-tailed eagle catching a fish.
Gill	Little bitterns, which performed so well for half an hour; large coppers, such an amazing colour; and our singing fire-bellied toad.
Jackie	The glorious meadows, sometimes literally lying down looking up at the floral displays; the performing little bitterns; and fun and comradeship with the rest of the group.
Peter	It was going to be the long-eared owl, until today with the orioles, and that special moment when “she flicked her tail and he covered her in gold”; wonderful dragonflies and damselflies, and again the flowery meadows.
Elonwy	Little bitterns once more; the mating pair of green tortoise-beetles; and the pond-level, sunken hide in the garden, giving a very different perspective.
Ken	Such wonderful birds and habitats; our first, very close fly-past from a white-tailed eagle; and of course the hawfinches and orioles around Kondor Tanya.
Colin	The nesting orioles and performing little bitterns came close, but pride of place must go to the black woodpeckers which graced most of his early morning walks. Colin added later “I had a bloody hoot!” which is highest praise in Norfolk.
Kate	Andrea and Gábor, for keeping the show running; Chris for spreading his enthusiasm for ‘buggery’; corn-cockles in the field margins; the shouty wryneck; and those magical early morning moments, with turtle doves, golden orioles, black woodpeckers and cuckoos.
Helen	Fields full of lax-flowered orchids; wildlife in abundance; and individual highlights of fire-bellied toad, long-eared owl and common glider.
Malcolm	Just loved the whole country, but within that broad canvas, especially the bustards and long-eared owl, and the sight of red-footed falcon chicks crammed into their nests.
Jeremy	Really enjoyed the “meadows like we used to have”, also the long-eared owl, black woodpeckers (“they really do exist!”), and indeed everything and everyone.

Gábor’s best bits certainly didn’t include the plumber who had let him down throughout the week...but he was more complimentary about the group, each of whom had brought something unique and special to the holiday experience. And Örs had remarked on that as well, commenting “What a wonderful group...open to anything”. Gábor also singled out sharing his precious surroundings with us all; the satisfaction in seeing the eagle platform occupied successfully, only two years after it was installed; seeing our delight in the poppy fields; and having his eyes opened to “the world within” with the picture-winged flies around Lake Kolon.

As for me, well one of the mini-highlights has to be the tawny cockroaches (or as Jackie said, “those blinking cockroaches!”), more visible here than anywhere I have been previously; our great few minutes opening up and exploring the moth trap of delights; and finally, the sight of the imperial eagle, sweeping majestically into view as we stood on the Kun Hill. A new bird for me, and one which lived up to expectations.

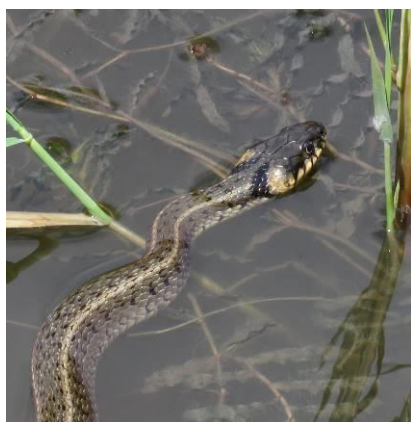
WILDLIFE LISTS

BIRDS

	Day 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Little grebe			x			x	x	
Great crested grebe			x			x		
Black-necked grebe			x					
Pygmy cormorant			x			x	x	
Cormorant			x			x		
Bittern				x				
Little bittern					x			
Squacco heron				x			x	
Night heron			x	x		x	x	
Great egret			x	x		x	x	
Little egret		x	x	x		x		
Grey heron		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Purple heron			x	x		x		
Black stork			x					
White stork		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Spoonbill			x	x		x		
Mute swan			x	x		x		
Greylag goose			x	x		x		
Shelduck				x		x		
Mallard		x	x	x		x	x	
Gadwall						x		
Shoveler			x	x		x		
Pochard			x			x		
Red-crested pochard						x		
Ferruginous duck			x			x	x	
White-tailed eagle		x	x	x		x		
Short-toed eagle		x						
Imperial eagle					x			
Honey buzzard		x		x				
Marsh harrier		x	x	x	x	x	x	
Hen harrier	x							
Sparrowhawk				x				
Common buzzard	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Kestrel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Red-footed falcon				x		x		
Hobby		x	x		x			
Saker			x					
Peregrine			x					
Pheasant	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Quail		x	x	x	x		x	x
Coot			x	x		x	x	
Moorhen			x			x	x	
Common crane				x				
Great bustard					x			
Collared pratincole					x			
Black-winged stilt			x	x		x		
Avocet			x	x		x		
Lapwing		x	x	x		x	x	
Spotted redshank						x		
Redshank				x		x		
Black-tailed godwit				x		x		
Curlew				x		x		
Dunlin						x		
Black-headed gull		x	x	x		x	x	
Mediterranean gull				x	x	x		
Yellow-legged gull				x	x	x		
Common tern				x		x	x	
Black tern			x	x		x		
White-winged black tern						x		
Whiskered tern			x	x		x	x	
Feral pigeon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Woodpigeon	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Turtle dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Collared dove	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Cuckoo	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Swift		x	x					
Nightjar					x	x		

Scops owl				X	X			
Little owl						X	X	
Long-eared owl						X		
Bee-eater	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Roller	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hoopoe	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black woodpecker		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Green woodpecker	X		X		X		X	
Grey-headed woodpecker			X					
Lesser spotted woodpecker						X	X	X
Middle spotted woodpecker			X					
Great spotted woodpecker	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Syrian woodpecker	X		X					
Wryneck		X						
Skylark		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Woodlark			X				X	X
Crested lark		X			X	X	X	
Sand martin			X					
Swallow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
House martin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tree pipit		X		X			X	
Tawny pipit		X						
Blue-headed wagtail		X	X	X	X	X	X	
White wagtail	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Robin		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nightingale		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Black redstart	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Whinchat		X						
Stonechat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Northern wheatear		X						
Blackbird	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Song thrush	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Savi's warbler			X	X			X	
Sedge warbler		X	X			X		
Reed warbler						X	X	
Marsh warbler				X				
Great reed warbler			X	X	X	X	X	
Chiffchaff	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Icterine warbler		X		X				
Blackcap	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Whitethroat		X					X	
Spotted flycatcher		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Long-tailed tit		X	X	X	X			
Penduline tit		X	X	X			X	
Bearded tit						X		
Great tit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Blue tit	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nuthatch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Short-toed treecreeper		X			X		X	
Lesser grey shrike		X		X	X	X		
Red-backed shrike	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Starling	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Golden oriole	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jay	X	X		X	X	X	X	
Magpie	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jackdaw	X			X	X	X	X	
Rook	X	X		X		X		
Hooded crow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Raven				X				
House sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Tree sparrow	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Chaffinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Greenfinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Goldfinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Linnet			X			X		
Hawfinch	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reed bunting							X	
Corn bunting		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Yellowhammer				X	X	X	X	
TOTAL: 136 species, seen and / or heard								

MAMMALS				
Roe deer	Suslik	European beaver (dead)	Mole (hills)	(Steppe?) polecat (roof damage)
Wild boar (rootings & signs)	Red squirrel	Brown hare	Red fox	
REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS				
European pond terrapin	Eastern green lizard	Aesculapian snake	Common spadefoot toad	Edible frog
				Agile frog
Sand lizard	Grass snake	Green toad	Fire-bellied toad	Common tree frog



Grass snake (CG); Agile frog (its snout is more pointed than in other frog species) (JG);
a half-hidden Fire-bellied toad 'pooping' away (HC).

BUTTERFLIES				
Safflower skipper	Orange-tip	Silver-washed fritillary	Queen-of-Spain fritillary	Purple-shot copper
Essex skipper	Clouded yellow	Niobe fritillary	Large wall brown	Small blue
Large skipper	Red admiral	Glanville fritillary	Wall brown	Common blue
Swallowtail	Comma	Marsh fritillary	Meadow brown	Chapman's blue
Southern festoon (caterpillars)	Peacock	Heath fritillary	Speckled wood	Green-underside blue
Large white	Common glider	Knapweed fritillary	Small heath	Holly blue
Small white	Lesser purple emperor	Eastern knapweed fritillary	Chestnut heath	Silver-studded blue
Eastern Bath white	Cardinal fritillary	Lesser spotted fritillary	Large copper	Brown argus



Tawny cockroach (CG).



Common glider (HC).



Gymnosoma rotundatum,
a parasitic tachinid fly (CG).



Trypetoptera punctulata, a
picture-winged snail-killer fly (HC).




Southern festoon butterfly caterpillar
(CG).



Olethreutes arcuella, a beautiful
micromoth (CG).

MOTHS Micromoths				
White plume-moth <i>Pterophorus pentadactyla</i>		Common bagworm <i>Psyche casta</i>		
Scabious longhorn <i>Nemophora cupriacella</i>		Giant bagworm <i>Canephora hirsuta</i>		
Degeer's longhorn <i>Nemophora degeerella</i>		Small magpie <i>Anania hortulata</i>		
Beautiful longhorn <i>Adela croesella</i>		European corn-borer <i>Ostrinia nubilalis</i>		
Horse-chestnut leaf-miner <i>Cameraria ohridella</i>		<i>Sitochroa verticalis</i>		
<i>Celypha lacunana</i>		<i>Evergestis pallidata</i>		
<i>Olethreutes arcuella</i>		<i>Loxostege virescalis</i>		
<i>Hedya salicella</i>		Small china-mark <i>Cataclysta lemnata</i>		
Timothy tortrix <i>Aphelia paleana</i>		Brown china-mark <i>Elophila nymphaeata</i>		
		<i>Crambus lathonuellus</i>		
Geometrids				
Mocha	Brussels lace	Common wave	Small blood-vein	Barberry carpet
Willow beauty	Clouded border	Specked yellow	Tawny-barred angle	Lace border
Great oak beauty	Peppered moth	Latticed heath	Sharp-angled peacock	Pleasant wave
Pale oak beauty	Riband wave	Yellow-shell	Least carpet	Purple bar
Mottled beauty	Portland ribbon wave	White pinion-spotted	Common carpet	Purple-bordered gold
Noctuids				
Scarce blackneck	Straw dot	Silver Y	Spectacle	Spotted sulphur
Treble-lines	Silver-barred	Dagger sp.	Clouded brindle	Fan-foot
Heart and dart	Flame	Poplar grey	Large yellow underwing	Beautiful hook-tip
Setaceous	Burnet companion	Rosy marbled	Lunar yellow underwing	Mullein shark
Hebrew character	Marbled white-spot	<i>Earias vernana</i>	underwing	Knotgrass (caterpillar)
Double-line	Marbled clover	Bright-line brown-eye	Shaded fan-foot	
Hawks				
Pine hawk-moth	Eyed Hawk-moth	Poplar hawk-moth	Small elephant hawk-moth	Hummingbird hawk-moth
Other macros				
Scarce forester	Pine lappet	Swallow prominent	Feline	Fall webworm
Six-spot burnet	Plum-tree lappet	Pale prominent	Cream-spot tiger	Orange footman
Poplar lutestring	Pale tussock	Three-humped prominent	Clouded buff	Scarce black arches
Grass eggar (caterpillar)	Yellow-tail (caterpillar)	Chocolate-tip	Poplar kitten	
Fox moth	Dusky marbled brown	Buff-tip	White ermine	
DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES				
Emperor	Black-tailed skimmer	Yellow-spotted whiteface	Scarce blue-tailed damselfly	Common emerald damselfly
				Scarce emerald damselfly
Lesser emperor	Broad-bodied chaser	Downy emerald dragonfly	Blue-tailed damselfly	Beautiful demoiselle
				Common blue damselfly
Norfolk hawk	Four-spotted chaser	Scarlet darter	Southern emerald damselfly	Azure damselfly
				Variable damselfly
White-tailed skimmer	Scarce chaser	White-legged damselfly	Western willow emerald damselfly	Dainty damselfly



Left: White-tailed skimmer (PC).
Above: Scarlet darter (HC).
Right: Beautiful demoiselle (HC).

GRASSHOPPERS & CRICKETS	
Tree cricket <i>Oecanthus pellucens</i>	Field cricket <i>Gryllus campestris</i>
COCKROACHES	
Tawny cockroach <i>Ectobius cf. pallidus</i>	
LACEWINGS	
<i>Myrmeleon formicarius</i> an ant-lion	<i>Chrysopa perla</i> a lacewing
SNAKE-FLIES	
<i>Phaeostigma notata</i> a snake-fly	
SCORPION-FLIES	
<i>Panorpa cognata</i> a scorpion-fly	

TRUE BUGS				
<i>Gonocerus acuteangulatus</i> Box bug		<i>Tritomegas sexmaculatus</i> Rambur's pied shield-bug		
<i>Coreus marginatus</i> Dock bug		<i>Graphosoma italicum</i> Millwall bug		
<i>Aelia acuminata</i> Bishop's mitre		<i>Carpocoris purpureipennis</i> a shield-bug		
<i>Adelphocoris lineolatus</i> Lucerne bug		<i>Nagusta goedelii</i> a spiny, brown assassin-bug		
<i>Capsodes mat</i> a black-and-red mirid bug		<i>Rhynocoris iracundus</i> Red assassin-bug		
<i>Lygaeus equestris</i> a ground bug		<i>Cercopis arcuata</i> Black-and-red froghopper		
<i>Pyrrhocoris apterus</i> Firebug		<i>Aphrophora alni</i> Alder spittlebug		
<i>Eurygaster testudinaria</i> Tortoise shield-bug		<i>Philaenus spumarius</i> Common froghopper		
<i>Rhaphigaster nebulosa</i> Mottled shield-bug		Blue waterlily plant-bug [<i>Species unknown</i>]		
<i>Eurydema ornatum</i> Ornate shield-bug		<i>Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae</i> Water-lily aphid		
<i>Palomena prasina</i> Green shield-bug				
FLIES				
<i>Stratiomys singularior</i> Flecked general soldier-fly	<i>Bibio hortulanus</i> a St Mark's fly	<i>Dioctria linearis</i> a robber-fly	<i>Gymnosoma rotundatum</i> a parasitic tachinid fly	<i>Trypetoptera punctulata</i> a picture-winged snail-killer fly
Horse-fly spp.	cf <i>Antipalus varipes</i> a robberfly	<i>Nephrotoma appendiculata</i> Spotted craneffly	<i>Dexia rustica</i> a parasitic tachinid fly	<i>Wachtliella persicariae</i> a gall-midge gall on amphibious bistort
BEETLES				
<i>Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata</i> 22-spot ladybird		<i>Agapanthia villosa</i> viridescens		
<i>Subcoccinella vigintiquatuorpunctata</i> 24-spot ladybird		Golden-bloomed longhorn beetle		
<i>Harmonia axyridis</i> Harlequin ladybird		<i>Cantharis fusca</i> a soldier-beetle		
<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i> Seven-spot ladybird		<i>Cantharis nigricans</i> a soldier-beetle		
<i>Tropinota hirta</i> a pied chafer		<i>Galerucella nymphaeae</i> Waterlily beetle		
<i>Valgus hemipterus</i> a pied chafer		<i>Chrysolina fastuosa</i> Dead-nettle leaf-beetle		
<i>Oxythyrea funesta</i> Pollen chafer		<i>Chrysolina polita</i> Gipsywort leaf beetle		
<i>Melolontha melolontha</i> Cockchafer		<i>Chrysomela populi</i> Poplar leaf-beetle		
<i>Cetonia aurata</i> Rose chafer		<i>Cassida viridis</i> Green tortoise-beetle		
<i>Phyllopertha horticola</i> Garden chafer		<i>Crioceris duodecimpuncta</i> Spotted asparagus-beetle		
<i>Lucanus cervus</i> Stag beetle		<i>Crioceris quatuordecimpunctata</i> Asparagus beetle		
<i>Dorcus parallelipedus</i> Lesser stag beetle		<i>Cryptocephalus hypochaeridis</i> a shiny green flower-beetle		
<i>Lampyrus noctiluca</i> Glow-worm		<i>Malachius bipustulatus</i> Two-spotted malachite beetle		
<i>Blaps mucronata</i> Churchyard beetle		<i>Anthocomus equestris</i> a soft-winged flower-beetle		
<i>Stictoleptura maculicornis</i> a longhorn		<i>Cardiophorus discicollis</i> a red click-beetle		
<i>Plagionotus floralis</i> an extra-waspy wasp-beetle		<i>Ampedus sanguinolentus</i> a red click-beetle		



Green tortoise beetles (HC), an extra-waspy wasp-beetle, Dead-nettle beetles (CG).

BEES, WASPS & ANTS				
<i>Xylocopa violacea</i> Violet carpenter-bee	<i>Polistes</i> sp. a paper wasp	<i>Eucera</i> sp. a longhorn bee	<i>Vespa crabro</i> Hornet	<i>Formica rufa</i> Wood ant
SPIDERS				
<i>Evarcha arcuata</i> a jumping spider	<i>Runcinia grammica</i> a crab spider		<i>Tetragnatha</i> cf <i>extensa</i> a stretch-spider	
<i>Thomisus onustus</i> a crab spider	<i>Araniella cucurbitina</i> Cucumber spider		<i>Titanoeca schineri</i> a rock weaver spider	
<i>Misumena vatia</i> a crab spider	<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i> Nursery-web spider		<i>Oxyopes heterophthalmus</i> a lynx spider	
MOLLUSCS				
<i>Helix pomatia</i> Roman snail				
FUNGI				
<i>Ustilago violacea</i> Anther smut on <i>Silene italica</i>		<i>Phragmidium tuberculatum</i> rust on <i>Rosa</i>	<i>Aecidium clematidis</i> Gall on <i>Clematis</i>	

PLANTS

Dicotyledons	
ACERACEAE - Maple family	
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box-elder maple
APIACEAE - Carrot family	
<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo
<i>Falcaria vulgaris</i>	Longleaf
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Hedge parsley
ARISTOLOCHACEAE - Birthwort family	
<i>Aristolochia clematitis</i>	Yellow birthwort
ASCLEPIADACEAE - Milkweed family	
<i>Asclepias syriaca</i>	Common milkweed
<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort
ASTERACEAE - Daisy family	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Achillea nobilis</i>	Noble yarrow
<i>Alyssum alyssoides</i>	Small alison
<i>Ambrosia artemisiifolia</i>	Ragweed
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Centaurea cyanus</i>	Cornflower
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater knapweed
<i>Cichorium intybus</i>	Chicory
<i>Erigeron annuus</i>	Annual fleabane
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy
<i>Onopordum acanthium</i>	Cotton thistle
<i>Tragopogon porrifolius</i>	Salsify
<i>Tragopogon pratensis orientalis</i>	Eastern goat's-beard
<i>Zinnia sp.</i>	
BALSAMINACEAE - Balsam family	
<i>Impatiens parviflora</i>	Small balsam
BETULACEAE - Birch family	
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
BORAGINACEAE - Borage family	
<i>Anchusa officinalis</i>	Alkanet
<i>Buglossoides arvensis</i>	Corn gromwell
<i>Cynoglossum hungaricum</i>	Hungarian hound's-tongue
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's bugloss
<i>Nonea pulla</i>	Monk's-wort
<i>Phacelia tanacetifolia</i>	
<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Comfrey
BRASSICACEAE - Cabbage family	
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Flixweed
<i>Lepidium crassifolium</i>	
<i>Rorippa amphibia</i>	Great yellowcress
CAMPANULACEAE - Bellflower family	
<i>Campanula sibirica</i>	
CANNABACEAE - Hop family	
<i>Cannabis sativa</i>	Hemp
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop
CAPRIFOLIACEAE - Honeysuckle family	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
CARYOPHYLLACEAE - Pink family	
<i>Agrostemma githago</i>	Corn-cockle
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort
<i>Dianthus carthusianus</i>	Carthusian pink
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-robin
<i>Minuartia verna</i>	Spring sandwort
<i>Silene conica</i>	Conical catchfly
<i>Silene italica</i>	Italian catchfly
<i>Silene italica nemoralis</i>	
<i>Silene viscosa</i>	
CORNACEAE - Dogwood family	
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
CRASSULACEAE - Stonecrop family	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop
DIPSACEAE - Scabious family	
<i>Dipsacus pilosus</i>	Lesser teasel
<i>Scabiosa canescens</i>	
ELAEAGNACEAE - Oleaster family	
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive

EUPHORBIACEAE - Spurge family	
<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge
<i>Euphorbia nicaeensis</i>	Nicaean spurge
<i>Euphorbia seguieriana</i>	Steppe spurge
FABACEAE - Pea family	
<i>Amorpha fruticosa</i>	False indigo
<i>Astragalus asper</i>	
<i>Astragalus onobrychis</i>	
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown vetch
<i>Genista tinctoria</i>	Dyer's greenweed
<i>Lathyrus palustris</i>	Marsh pea
<i>Lathyrus tuberosus</i>	Tuberous pea
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot trefoil
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater bird's-foot trefoil
<i>Medicago sativa falcata</i>	Sickle medick
<i>Medicago sativa sativa</i>	Lucerne
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	Ribbed melilot
<i>Ononis spinosa</i>	Spiny rest-harrow
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragon's-teeth
<i>Vicia cassubica</i>	Danzig vetch
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch
FAGACEAE - Oak family	
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak
GERANIACEAE - Geranium family	
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common stork's-bill
<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Small-flowered crane's-bill
LAMIACEAE - Labiate family	
<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	Basil-thyme
<i>Leonurus cardiaca</i>	Motherwort
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	White horehound
<i>Salvia aethiopis</i>	Woolly sage
<i>Salvia nemorosa</i>	Wild sage
<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow clary
<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort
<i>Thymus sp.</i>	Wild thyme
LENTIBULARIACEAE - Butterwort family	
<i>Utricularia vulgaris</i>	Common bladderwort
LINACEAE - Flax family	
<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial flax
MORACEAE - Mulberry family	
<i>Morus nigra</i>	Black mulberry
NYMPHAEACEAE - Water-lily family	
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White water-lily
OLEACEAE - Olive family	
<i>Fraxinus angustifolius</i>	Narrow-leaved ash
<i>pannonica</i>	
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet
OROBANCHACEAE - Broomrape family	
<i>Orobanche sp.</i>	
PAPAVERACEAE - Poppy family	
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine
<i>Fumaria vaillantii</i>	Few-flowered fumitory
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy
PLANTAGINACEAE - Plantain family	
<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain
POLYGALACEAE - Milkwort family	
<i>Polygala comosa</i>	Tufted milkwort
POLYGONACEAE - Dock family	
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious bistort
RANUNCULACEAE - Buttercup family	
<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's-joy
<i>Consolida orientalis</i>	Eastern larkspur
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup
<i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>	Celery-leaved buttercup
<i>Thalictrum lucidum</i>	Shining meadow-rue
ROSACEAE - Rose family	
<i>Agrimonia eupatoria</i>	Agrimony
<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Dropwort
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>	Hoary cinquefoil

RUBIACEAE - Bedstraw family	
<i>Galium album</i>	Upright hedge bedstraw
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh bedstraw
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw
SALICACEAE - Willow family	
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar
<i>Populus nigra</i>	Black poplar
SANTALACEAE - Sandalwood family	
<i>Thesium cf. dollineri</i>	Bastard-toadflax
SCROPHULARIACEAE - Figwort family	
<i>Melampyrum cristatum</i>	Crested cow-wheat
<i>Rhinanthus angustifolius</i>	Greater yellow-rattle
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle
<i>Verbascum phoeniceum</i>	Purple mullein
<i>Verbascum speciosum</i>	Showy mullein
SIMAROUBACEAE - Quassia family	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Tree-of-Heaven
VALERIANACEAE - Valerian family	
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common valerian
VERBENACEAE - Vervain family	
<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Vervain
VIOLACEAE - Violet family	
<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field pansy
<i>Viola kitaibeliana</i>	Dwarf pansy
<i>Viola persicifolia</i>	Fen violet
VITACEAE - Grape family	
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	Wild grape-vine
Monocotyledons	
ASPARAGACEAE - Asparagus family	
<i>Asparagus officinalis</i>	Wild asparagus
<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth
<i>Polygonatum multiflorum</i>	Solomon's seal
<i>Polygonatum odoratum</i>	Angular Solomon's seal

BUTOMACEAE - Flowering-rush family	
<i>Butomus umbellatus</i>	Flowering-rush
CYPERACEAE - Sedge family	
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i>	Sea club-rush
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand sedge
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black-bog rush
<i>Scirpoides holoschoenus</i>	Round-headed club-rush
HYDROCHARITACEAE - Frogbit family	
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Frogbit
<i>Stratiotes aloides</i>	Water-soldier
<i>Trapa natans</i>	Water-chestnut
IRIDACEAE - Iris family	
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag
<i>Iris spuria</i>	Blue iris
ORCHIDACEAE - Orchid family	
<i>Anacamptis coriophora</i>	Northern bug orchid
<i>coriophora</i>	
<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	Lax-flowered orchid
<i>laxiflora</i>	
<i>Anacamptis laxiflora</i>	Dense lax-flowered orchid
<i>palustris</i>	
<i>Cephalanthera</i>	White helleborine
<i>damasonium</i>	
<i>Epipactis bugacensis</i>	Bugac helleborine
<i>Ophrys spegodes</i> (close to <i>mammosa</i>)	Early spider-orchid
POACEAE - Grass family	
<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	Drooping brome
<i>Elymus caninus</i>	Bearded couch
<i>Festuca vaginata</i>	Hungarian fescue
<i>Hordeum hystris</i>	
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed
<i>Stipa</i> sp.	Steppe-grass