



Hungary in Spring

with Shetland Wildlife 14 - 21 May 2011

Leaders: Jon Dunn & Zoltán Ecsedi

Saturday 14 May

Our group met first thing at Heathrow, and after a smooth flight to Hungary we were met at Budapest airport by Zoltán Ecsedi, our local guide for the coming week. Our luggage swiftly transferred into our minibus and we were away from Budapest and out into open countryside. A short drive to our picnic site for lunch punctuated by regular Common Buzzards gave little clue about what awaited us...

We ate lunch surrounded by Stonechats and Crested Larks; a lunch that was regularly interrupted by sightings of raptors flying over the nearby fields. Kestrel, Marsh Harrier, more Common Buzzards, and then... Eastern Imperial Eagle! We got fabulous views of our first eagle of the trip as it slowly soared past us, all thoughts of our lunch quite forgotten.

We pushed on then for the Hortobágy National Park, making regular stops as we went. Our first was at a Bee-eater colony, and we enjoyed watching these charismatic birds as they swirled overhead, the air filled with their distinctive calls. Distractions came thick and fast with regular sightings of Hoopoe in the nearby scrub, Red-footed Falcons scything over our heads, and a showy Savi's Warbler singing in a nearby reedbed.

The flooded areas of the Hortobágy National Park change from year to year, and Zoltán knew precisely where we should go en route to our hotel to find our first waders of the trip. A plethora of waders and waterfowl greeted us – summer-plumaged Black-tailed Godwits, Ruffs and Wood Sandpipers picked their way around the grassy fringes, Snipe skulked at the water's edge, and numerous Ferruginous Ducks glided across the water. As if this weren't enough of an introduction to the riches of the Hortobágy, Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns hunted over the water, Pygmy and Great Cormorants flew purposefully past above us, and the first of many Great White Egrets dazzled in the distance.

By the time we reached our hotel in the heart of the Hortobágy National Park we'd had a great introduction to what was to come; and even as we checked into the hotel we could hear singing Golden Orioles, Nightingales, and the somewhat less tuneful Great Reed Warblers!

Sunday 15 May

Our first full day in the Hortobágy National Park, and we couldn't wait to get started. Our first stop was at Cucca, and an early reminder of just how impressive our local guide's knowledge of where to find the scarcer species; in the middle of an otherwise anonymous area of fields, we first found a Hobby, and then an altogether more impressive pair of falcons – a pair of magnificent Saker. We watched in awe as the male brought food to his mate at their nest, and could even catch a glimpse of their young.

More falcons were to follow in short order as we visited a bustling colony of Red-footed Falcons in a stand of flowering acacias. These fabulously photogenic raptors kept us enthralled as they hunted for flying insects.

A stop at the newly managed wetland of Nagyszik yielded waders including Wood Sandpiper and Little Stint; though for some the highlight was arguably the local woolly pigs, an ancient breed of very hairy domesticated swine that gave clues as to it's wild ancestry in the form of the

Wild Boar-style striped piglets at their feet... They were being used to clean the wetland of all invasive and tenacious roots, a job they had set about with impressive effect and dedication.

Our next stop was an occupied nestbox provided in a row of trees amidst wild grassland for Long-eared Owls. An adult bird was in attendance and provided us with brilliant views while it tenderly preened an owlet as we watched from a respectful distance. Small Heath, Common Blue and Pale Clouded Yellow butterflies were much in evidence here, and as we departed Zoltán's sharp eyes picked out another common but much shyer inhabitant of the open grassland – Souselik. These engaging ground squirrels are the favoured prey item of our next big target for the morning, and one that showed much better than the understandably very nervous Souselik – Long-legged Buzzard. We enjoyed amazing views of this stunning raptor both on the ground and as it hunted over the arid puszta.

It had been a brilliant morning, and we gathered ourselves over a welcome lunch at the Tisza River before plunging into an afternoon during which the quality of the birds abated not an iota. Our first stop was at Zám, where with some patience we got to grips with Moustached Warblers as they made frequent sorties to and from their nests in the reeds. At Nagyiváni we walked out into the puszta for one of the most memorable encounters of the trip – we watched a male Montagu's Harrier hunting over the heads of displaying Great Bustards, watched over by a White-tailed Eagle perched on the thatched gable of a nearby barn!

We ended the day having seen an incredible 9 species of diurnal raptor (in addition to Long-eared and Little Owls), and had enjoyed many more new species for the trip, including Lesser Grey Shrike – though not as yet any Red-backed Shrike. Zoltán explained that spring migration of passerines appeared to be somewhat delayed this year... Nobody had told this to the Golden Orioles, and they were much in evidence all afternoon, including a piece of courtship behaviour that was straight out of the bird of paradise textbook – 3 eye watering males pursuing a coy female in an ascending spiral around the trunk of a tree by the side of a stream.

Monday 16 May

Our second full day in the Hortobágy National Park saw us devote the morning to more aquatic species than yesterday's raptor-fest. Appropriately, as the heavens had opened overnight, filling roadside ditches and the many small marshes that studded the otherwise uninterrupted steppe. The birds responded accordingly, and we found ourselves in the middle of a plethora of birds; huge clouds of Great White Egrets rose as we passed along the roads around Tetétlen, and alongside us were swirling fishing parties of Whiskered Terns. By late afternoon we'd completed the set of marsh terns with beautiful Black and White-winged Black Terns added to our tally. In the meantime, the wetland teemed with bird life; in addition to the Great White Egrets we found Little Egret, Grey, Purple and Night Herons, and yet more Bitterns – we'd already seen them daily thus far, and were to continue to do so for the duration of our time in the Hortobágy National Park.

We enjoyed several facets of Bittern behaviour, seeing different individuals eating a frog and standing in their charismatic elongated camouflaged pose; and hearing their booming calls reverberating across the reeds. We watched Ruff displaying in the short grass beside shallow pools, the males leaping into the air in a bid to impress. Black-winged Stilts seemed to be everywhere, with rather fewer Avocets also seen.

The rain was never far away during the morning, but our spirits refused to be dampened – it's hard to let the weather get to you when there's a pair of Syrian Woodpeckers mere feet away

from you. These spectacular woodpeckers prefer to nest in villages and in close proximity to houses and gardens, and are particularly confiding; and this pair in Földes was no exception.

In the afternoon we returned to the open countryside, and spent some hours around Angyalháza. We particularly enjoyed watching in quick succession three of the more colourful species that Hungary has to offer - first a courting pair of Golden Orioles, the female playing hard-to-get as she was pursued by an ardent, vivid yellow and black male; then a Hoopoe showed well nearby; and finally we had superb views of an electric-blue and chestnut Roller that perched on overhead wires beside the road. Species that we no longer take for granted in the British countryside were seemingly everywhere – none more so than Corn Buntings, or as Zoltán accurately dubbed them, “our fat friend”!

Tuesday 17 May

After a night punctuated with rain showers, we set off into what felt like fall conditions. Migrants had clearly arrived overnight, and just yards from our hotel door we found our first Red-backed Shrike of the trip – the first of many. A few feet away and we found 2 immaculate Barred Warblers in the hedge beside the hotel driveway – those delayed migrant passerines had arrived! The male Barred Warbler was in full song, and we paused to enjoy this before making for what Zoltán considered one of the finest places to find migrants in the Hortobágy National Park, a complex of fish ponds fringed by mature trees and overgrown dykes.

The sun was already hot early in the day, and from the moment of our arrival Zoltán’s faith in the Hortobágy fish ponds was amply rewarded. We’d no sooner got out of the bus than we were greeted by a Marsh Warbler singing beside a ditch in front of us, and mere feet away a more unfamiliar song was issuing from a mature willow tree – this was a much rarer songster in local terms, a Thrush Nightingale. What a result! We all got good views of this bird as it held station some 6 feet from the ground amidst the lush withies. A little way down the ditch we stopped again to admire a male Penduline Tit adding nesting material to an almost finished nest suspended high in another willow tree. We watched as he returned time and again with beakfuls of down, carefully arranging them inside the nest before heading away once again for yet more. Yet more newly arrived warblers in the form of Willow Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat and Icterine Warbler readily gave themselves up to us. It almost felt like Shetland in early June! (In Jon’s dreams...)

Our eyes were constantly drawn upwards as a steady procession of herons and egrets crisscrossed the sky – Little and Great White Egret; Grey, Purple, Night and our first Squacco Herons; and magnificent soaring Common Cranes. We enjoyed good views of Squacco Heron feeding at the edge of one of the ponds, but were distracted yet again by birdsong – this time 2 male Bluethroats each holding territory and engaging in a vocal duel with one another from the tops of reeds and small bushes.

The reeds were alive with Bearded Tits, but they had to play second fiddle to one of the reedbed’s most secretive denizens, a pair of Little Crake. We watched enthralled as the male pursued the female back and forth at the base of the reeds, threading their way effortlessly through the dense vegetation and walking across tangled vegetation floating on the water’s surface.

From one reedbed to another – we next returned to our Moustached Warbler site at Zám for second helpings of this charismatic *Acrocephalus* warbler. This time the views were simply superb, and we saw both a newly fledged youngster and an adult perched in full view. En route

then to our last site of the day, we noted several newly arrived Red-backed Shrikes, and yet more Bitterns including one wandering through a pea field being mobbed by a pair of agitated and territorial Lapwings. Eventually, harried by their close attention, it flew off presumably in search of more typical Bittern habitat! This was our 7th Bittern in 3 days...

Our last stop of the day was to visit a remarkable lake with some 40 pairs of nesting Black-necked Grebes, and a large Black-headed Gull colony that also yielded both Mediterranean and Little Gulls. None of us had ever seen so many summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebes in such a relatively small area. Many of the Black-necked Grebes had young of various ages, some still being carried across the water on their parents' backs. A great piece of behaviour to witness in stunning surroundings, with newly emerged Large Copper butterflies seemingly everywhere by the lakeside. What an end to another brilliant day!

Wednesday 18 May

Another fine sunny day dawned, and we headed for the hills, ready for two full days in the heavily wooded Zemplén region looking in particular for the scarcer woodpeckers, owls and other woodland species. Birding in dense vegetation came as a great surprise after 3 days in the immense open horizons of the Hortobagy plain, but it didn't take us long to adjust.

We spent the morning in ancient oak woodland near Debrecen, and no sooner had we started to explore than we'd found 2 singing Collared Flycatchers. If this wasn't good enough, one began mobbing a male Red-backed Shrike that had the nerve to perch nearby! Woodpeckers were much in evidence, and we enjoyed good views of Lesser, Middle and Great Spotted, and a pair of elusive but vocal Wrynecks eventually gave terrific views.

We added Common Toad to our amphibian list, seeing many courting individuals in the damper areas of the wood, and some typical deciduous woodland butterfly species, including many pristine Map drinking at muddy puddles, and also Common Glider. A very active wild Honey Bee nest in an oak tree was admired from a respectful distance!

At our next stop, a series of rich freshly cultivated fields near Újfehértó, we enjoyed views of the extremely scarce local Hungarian subspecies of Short-toed Lark, a species that sparked a fascinating taxonomic debate in the bus about the various subspecies and putative species of Short-toed and Skylark across Europe.

From there we headed onwards towards the Zemplén Hills, and great views of our first singing River Warblers of the trip. We finished the day with a drive up into the Tokaj vineyards - not alas to sample the excellent local wine, but instead for a taster of some vintage wildlife to come in the next 2 days. In the space of just half an hour we'd enjoyed good views of soaring Honey Buzzard, while the vineyard harboured Wood Lark (our 4th lark species of the day), more Red-backed Shrikes, and some spectacular and confiding Green Lizards.

Thursday 19 May

As another day dawned clear and sunny this morning, promising another hot day in the field, we met up with another Zoltán, our local guide for the next 2 days, a man whose knowledge of the lives of the shy woodpeckers and owls is second to none. Having the inside knowledge paid off handsomely. As we headed off the beaten track up lanes fringed with wild roses expectations (and numbers of Red-backed Shrikes) were high. We weren't to be disappointed.

We headed on foot up into a heavily wooded valley, distracted by Wryneck at its nest, a myriad of new butterflies including Southern Festoon and Chequered Blue, and a new amphibian for many of us – Agile Frog. Our short wait for a male White-backed Woodpecker to show beside his nest-hole was punctuated by watching a spectacular Black Woodpecker. When the White-backed Woodpecker arrived, he posed brilliantly for us beside his nest hole. We left well-satisfied with our haul of woodpeckers, and walked back down to the bus to the accompaniment of the rasping calls of Corncrakes well-hidden in the nearby meadows.

We stopped briefly for a well-earned celebratory ice cream, and then moved on to a raptor wathpoint where we had a panoramic view of a swathe of wooded hills. Here we watched 6 kettling Black Storks riding the thermals, and then a stunning pair of Lesser Spotted Eagles in display flight overhead.

After a hard winter, Ural Owls were having a very bad breeding season in Hungary, and were almost impossible to see. We on the other hand had our local guide with his immense knowledge of the local avifauna, and were taken to see the only successful pair in the region. We worked hard for this new bird for the group - the forest was steep and dense, and even in the shade it was still hot. Eventually though we got marvellous views of one bird in the beech canopy.

The owl theme then continued with Eagle Owls in the late afternoon at 2 separate quarry nest sites – with the added distractions of Bee-eaters and Large Wall Brown butterflies at the first site, and Grass Snake at the latter. At the first site the mother owl was sitting tight on her nest ledge; at the second site the female shared her nest ledge with 2 fluffy owlets, all 3 birds panting in the heat of the late afternoon. Finally, well satisfied with our day, we returned to our hotel for welcome beers on the terrace before dinner, and the fluting of Golden Orioles all around us. Bliss!

Friday 20 May

If, after a week of superb birding we thought the pace and quality might ease up today, we were to be pleasantly mistaken. Our last full day of birding in Hungary dawned clear and sunny yet again, and after an early breakfast we were on our way to a spot overlooking an Eastern Imperial Eagle nest.

The journey there was eventful - not only did we see a Lesser Spotted Eagle perched on a treetop beside the road, but we also found a pair of Great Grey Shrikes - less than 10 pairs nest annually in Hungary, so this new pair was an important as well as exciting discovery. Two more Bitterns feeding out in the open took our weekly tally to 9 individuals seen out in the open, and a Lesser Grey Shrike within half an hour of the Great Greys allowed for comparisons to be made in the field.

Our eagle site exceeded expectations, and besides the Eastern Imperial Eagle nest itself, at one point we found we were watching 3 Eastern Imperial and 5 Lesser Spotted Eagles sharing a thermal with 2 Black Storks and a Black Kite! The Eastern Imperial Eagles provided a particularly spectacular display, with one lone bird being ousted from the breeding territory after a brief but heartfelt aerial duel over our very heads.

We walked back up into more open woodland than the previous day, again looking for woodpeckers in the main. This expedition yielded great views of Black and Grey-headed Woodpeckers, as well as a host of new non-avian species: Bird's Nest Orchids, Scarce

Swallowtails and Wood Whites, and many Yellow-bellied Toads to add to the Fire-bellied Toads we'd been seeing in previous days.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch in the shade beside a secluded fish pond, and after a glass or two of wine to toast the successful and enjoyable week we'd just had, we headed back into the field for some more birding. We stopped at our favourite raptor watchpoint for a successful post-lunch raptor watch for Short-toed Eagles, and then enjoyed close encounters with Corncrakes in the damp meadows beside the small roads. The calls of Bee-eaters at a nearby colony were ringing in our ears as we all added a new plant species to our lists – the endemic *Iris hungarica*.

Finally we returned to our comfortable hotel for a drink or two in the evening sun, and to re-live our superb week's wildlife-watching here in Hungary. A host of new species for us all, and fabulously close encounters with masses of rare and scarce creatures in terrific weather.

Saturday 21 May

It was with enormous regret that we bid farewell in the morning to the village of Komlóska, our base during our time spent in the Zemplén Hills. Not before we'd gone for an early pre-breakfast walk up into the steep woodland that surrounded the village, and one last new species for the trip – an exceedingly irritable but photogenic Eastern Hedgehog. But with that we had to reluctantly call it a day, and make for Budapest and our flight back home, 161 species of birds and countless happy memories to the good.

Systematic List of birds seen in Hungary 14–21 May 2011

Common Quail – single bird heard calling 15/05

Common Pheasant – seen daily

Greylag Goose – seen daily in Hortobágy

Mute Swan – only seen at Hortobágy fish ponds

Gadwall – odd birds seen around Hortobágy

Mallard – seen on all but one day

Northern Shoveler – seen daily in Hortobágy

Garganey – seen daily in Hortobágy

Common Teal – seen only on 14/05

Common Pochard – seen daily in Hortobágy

Tufted Duck – seen only on 17/05

Ferruginous Duck – locally common, and seen daily in Hortobágy

Little Grebe – seen occasionally in Hortobágy

Great Crested Grebe – seen regularly in Hortobágy

Black-necked Grebe – seen in greatest numbers (c.40 pairs+young) on 17/05

Black Stork – seen daily in Zemplén Hills, peak count 6 on 19/05

White Stork – ubiquitous, seen daily

Eurasian Spoonbill – seen daily in Hortobágy

Eurasian Bittern – seen almost daily, even in dry habitat

Black-crowned Night Heron - seen daily in Hortobágy

Squacco Heron – showed well on 17/05 at Hortobágy fish ponds

Grey Heron – common – seen practically daily

Purple Heron – seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Great White Egret – common – seen daily

Little Egret – scarcer than Great White Egret, seen on 16/05 & 17/05

Pygmy Cormorant - seen daily in Hortobágy

Great Cormorant – seen almost daily

Common Kestrel – common, and seen daily

Red-footed Falcon – locally common in Hortobágy, seen 14/05 & 15/05

Eurasian Hobby – seen almost daily

Saker – 2 adults and young seen at Cucca, 15/05

White-tailed Eagle – single bird at Nagyiváni, 15/05

Black Kite – one individual seen 19/05, Zemplén Hills

Eurasian Marsh Harrier – very common, seen daily

Montagu's Harrier – individuals seen Hortobágy on 15/05 & 17/05

Eurasian Sparrowhawk – single hunting in Komlóska, 20/05

Common Buzzard – common, and seen daily

Long-legged Buzzard – single bird seen Hortobágy at close range, 15/05

European Honey Buzzard – individuals seen in Zemplén Hills 18/05 & 19/05

Lesser Spotted Eagle – best numbers seen on 20/05 – 6 in all, 5 at once

Eastern Imperial Eagle – seen on 2 breeding territories, best 3 together: 20/05

Short-toed Eagle – 2 birds, Zemplén Hills, 20/05

Great Bustard – up to 6 birds at Nagyvíváni, 15/05

Corncrake - heard almost daily in Zemplén Hills, seen 20/05

European Water Rail – singles seen and heard on two dates

Little Crake – male and female seen together, at Hortobágy fish ponds, 17/05

Common Moorhen – seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Common Coot - seen daily in Hortobágy

Common Crane - seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Black-winged Stilt - seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Pied Avocet – only seen on 16/05 near Tetétlen

Northern Lapwing – common, seen almost daily

Little Ringed Plover – only seen on 15/05, Hortobágy

Common Snipe – seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Black-tailed Godwit – seen on 2 dates, 14/05 & 16/05, Hortobágy

Eurasian Curlew – small numbers on 14/05

Common Redshank - seen on 2 dates, 14/05 & 16/05, Hortobágy

Wood Sandpiper – seen on consecutive days, 14/05 & 15/05, Hortobágy

Little Stint – only seen on 15/05, Hortobágy

Dunlin - seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Ruff - seen almost daily in Hortobágy

Black-headed Gull – common, seen almost daily

Mediterranean Gull – at least 2 birds seen on 17/05, Hortobágy

Little Gull – 3 individuals seen on 17/05, Hortobágy

Caspian Gull – small numbers on 15/05 & 17/05, Hortobágy

Whiskered Tern – common, seen daily in Hortobágy

Black Tern – scarce, small numbers seen on 16/05 & 17/05, Hortobágy

White-winged Black Tern - common, seen daily in Hortobágy

Common Tern - small numbers on 15/05 & 17/05, Hortobágy

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) – only noted in passing in Debrecen, 18/05

Stock Dove – seen and heard daily in Zemplén Hills

Common Woodpigeon – common, seen daily

European Turtle Dove – common, seen and heard almost daily

Eurasian Collared Dove – common, seen daily

Common Cuckoo – very common, seen and heard in good numbers daily

Ural Owl – not having a good breeding season. Individual seen 19/05

Eagle Owl – 2 adults, 2 young seen at 2 sites on 19/05, Zemplén Hills

Long-eared Owl – 1 adult, 1 young seen 15/05, Hortobágy

Little Owl – seen on one date only, 15/05

Common Swift – seen 18/05 Debrecen, 20/05 Zemplén Hills

European Roller – late arriving in 2011, seen only on 16/05

Common Hoopoe – common, seen on most days in Hortobágy

European Bee-eater – common, seen on most days

Eurasian Wryneck – seen on 3 consecutive days in Debrecen and Zemplén

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker – 18/05 Debrecen

White-backed Woodpecker – seen on 2 days in Zemplén Hills, 19/05 & 20/05

Middle Spotted Woodpecker – 18/05 Debrecen

Syrian Woodpecker – pair at nest, 16/05, Hortobágy

Great Spotted Woodpecker – seen in all wooded areas 17/05-20/05

Black Woodpecker - seen on 2 days in Zemplén Hills, 19/05 & 20/05

Green Woodpecker – 20/05 only, Zemplén Hills

Grey-headed Woodpecker - 20/05 only, Zemplén Hills

Red-backed Shrike – seen daily in good numbers from 17/05 onwards

Lesser Grey Shrike – seen on 3 dates throughout week

Great Grey Shrike – breeding pair found, 20/05, Zemplén Hills

Eurasian Golden Oriole – very common and seen and heard daily

Eurasian Jay – seen and heard daily in Zemplén Hills

Common Magpie – common, seen daily

Eurasian Jackdaw – common and seen daily in Hortobágy

Rook – common and seen on all but 1 day

Hooded Crow – common and seen almost daily

Common Raven – seen on 3 dates throughout the week

Marsh Tit – individuals only on 19/05, Zemplén Hills

Great Tit – common in latter half of the week away from Hortobágy

Eurasian Blue Tit - common in latter half of the week away from Hortobágy

Eurasian Penduline Tit – one male seen at nest, Hortobágy fish ponds, 17/05

Common Sand Martin – seen on 2 dates in Hortobágy, 14/05 & 16/05

Barn Swallow – very common, seen daily

Northern House Martin – common, seen daily

Long-tailed Tit – seen only on 18/05, Debrecen

Crested Lark – common, and seen almost daily

Eurasian Skylark – very common, seen daily

Woodlark – individual seen on 18/05, Tokaj

Short-toed Lark – individual seen on 18/05, Újfehértó

River Warbler – singing individuals heard and seen 18/05 Zemplén Hills

Savi's Warbler – common, seen and heard most days in Hortobágy

Great Reed Warbler – very common, seen and heard most days

Moustached Warbler – adults & newly fledged young on 15/05 & 17/05, Zám

Sedge Warbler – common, seen and heard almost daily

Eurasian Reed Warbler – common, seen and heard almost daily in Hortobágy

Marsh Warbler – singing individuals noted on 17/05 & 20/05

Icterine Warbler – singing individual noted 17/05, Hortobágy fish ponds

Willow Warbler - migrant found 17/05, Hortobágy fish ponds

Common Chiffchaff – seen and heard daily in Zemplén Hills

Wood Warbler – singing individual seen 19/05, Zemplén Hills

Blackcap – common, seen almost daily

Barred Warbler – seen and heard daily from 17/05 onwards

Lesser Whitethroat – individual seen on 17/05, Hortobágy

Common Whitethroat – common, seen almost daily

Bearded Reedling – locally common in reedbeds in Hortobágy

Northern Wren – seen and heard on 2 dates in Zemplén Hills, 19/05 & 21/05

Eurasian Nuthatch – seen daily in Zemplén Hills

European Starling – ubiquitous, seen daily

Eurasian Blackbird – common, seen almost daily

Song Thrush – common, seen daily in Zemplén Hills

European Robin – seen on 19/05, Zemplén Hills

Common Nightingale – very common, seen and heard almost daily

Thrush Nightingale - singing individual noted 17/05, Hortobágy fish ponds
Bluethroat – 2 males singing and showing well 17/05, Hortobágy fish ponds
Black Redstart – common, and seen almost daily
Whinchat - proved common, and seen practically daily
European Stonechat – common, seen daily
Northern Wheatear – seen on most days in Hortobágy
Spotted Flycatcher – common, seen almost daily
Collared Flycatcher – seen on 3 days 18/05-20/05, Debrecen & Zemplén Hills
House Sparrow – ubiquitous, seen daily
Eurasian Tree Sparrow – very common, seen daily
Yellow Wagtail – common, seen almost daily
Grey Wagtail – individual noted on 18/05
White Wagtail – common, seen almost daily
Tawny Pipit – one individual seen, 14/05 Hortobágy
Tree Pipit – seen on one date in the Zemplén Hills, 20/05
Chaffinch – common, seen daily
European Serin – common and seen daily in Zemplén Hills
European Greenfinch – common and seen almost daily
European Goldfinch - common and seen almost daily
Common Linnet – seen on 2 dates, 15/05 Hortobágy & 20/05 Zemplén Hills
Hawfinch – common and seen daily in Debrecen and Zemplén Hills
Corn Bunting – very common, seen almost daily
Yellowhammer - common and seen daily in Debrecen and Zemplén Hills
Reed Bunting – common and seen daily in Hortobágy

Additional species noted:

Mammals

Babastelle
Souslik
Fox
Roe Deer
Brown Hare
Stoat
Eastern Hedgehog

Reptiles

Green Lizard
Wall Lizard
Grass Snake

Amphibians

Marsh Frog
Agile Frog
Tree Frog
Common Toad
Green Toad
Fire-bellied Toad
Yellow-bellied Toad

Butterflies

Chequered Blue
Common Blue
Large Copper
Sooty Copper
Wood White
Green-veined White
Orange-tip
Pale Clouded Yellow
Speckled Wood
Chestnut Heath
Small Heath
Large Wall Brown
Scarce Swallowtail
Southern Festoon
Common Glider
Large Skipper
Map
Small Tortoiseshell (larvae only)

Miscellaneous

Hornet
Wild Honeybee