

Hungary

Wildlife for Leisure
Greentours Trip Report

24th – 31st May 2014

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Daily report & systematic lists by Amanda Borrows

Day 1 Saturday 24th May Arrival & transfer to Kondor Tanya via Ócsa

It was an early morning departure for Ann, Chris & Amanda who were flying from Stansted, to Budapest, but at least we would have a day to enjoy some of the beautiful surroundings that we would be on offer for the next few days. Unfortunately for Tony he would be meeting up with us at the evening meal, meanwhile David had arrived a couple of days earlier & greeted us all as we arrived at the airport, before meeting up with Gabor & a very hot Budapest, temperatures of which were already in the high twenties. However, the thunder trolls were only a short clap away in the distant, which we were hoping to avoid.

Our first stop was an impromptu stop for an amazing field of *Papaver rhoeas*. The vivid red was so startling against the green of the surrounding trees, & dark brooding sky it would be a shame not to stop, to admire. Moving on we headed to Ócsa woodland, the shady rides were a welcome from the scorching heat. A puddling Cardinal was our first butterfly of the day, but the highlight was the Lesser Purple Emperor. The dappled shafts of light on the woodland floor was magically in itself, but when the emperor interrupted the falling beams the purple of both wings shone like beacons, flashing on & off as it passed through the light, quite wondrous. Further along the woodland track a Red Fox made a brief appearance across the path, after which David pointed out a Spotted Flycatcher perched amongst the dead branches of the green trees, a good spot.

Continuing our journey to Kondor, we drove down more splendid swathes of red fields. Red-backed Shrikes, Corn Buntings & quartering Marsh Harriers were spotted from various bushes, or singing from posts or just gliding over the vast plains. At one point we had to stop the bus for the hawking Bee-eaters that circled around the trees next to the road, around 100 were dazzling us with their colour & call. A brief stop was made to scan the plains for Great Bustard, but none, only Cuckoo, Buzzard & Hobby were seen.

The journey took a dramatic turn in weather as we were nearing the Tanya, when the roaring of the thunder trolls were released. The rain was like a monsoon, pounding down on the van, with the wind whipping the vehicle hard. It was near impossible to see, & it didn't help with the falling branches that were just missing the van. Gabor slowly pushed on & as suddenly as it came, the noise & wind stopped, in fact the thunder only grazed the edge of Kondor. It was dry when we reached our accommodation. After which we settled in to our rooms, before a very welcome & hearty tasty meal, where we met Tony who had missed it all.

Kondor Tanya is based in the heart of Kiskunság National Park, settled amongst woodland environs. The accommodation is based in traditional style Hungarian thatched-roof buildings; the comfortable rustic atmosphere is topped off with typical excellent & delicious Hungarian culinary cuisine, making the experience truly unique.

Day 2 Sunday 25th May Kondor Environs - Kumpuszda

Kiskunság National Park is the second oldest national park in Hungary, established in 1975. The park lies between the rivers Danube and Tisza. The area is a mosaic pattern landscape, consisting of bogs, marshes, salt lakes and dry grassy plains. The great plain steppes of the Upper- Kiskunság is called Puszta, a large saline lowland, referred to as the Great Hungarian Plain, home to the largest population of Great Bustard in Europe.

The morning was fresh after the heavy rain & some of the group were out making the most of the early morning as the Golden Orioles called around the surrounding Poplar wood. Once breakfast was over, people were keen to get out and explore this wooded green haven.

We would be staying local & heading towards Lake Kondor, which is now dry due to the lack of rain over the past few years, even the thunder storm yesterday avoided the area. The sun was shining and we slowly made our way along the sandy track towards the lake, with Queen of Spain butterflies whizzing ahead of us. Last year a pair of Bee-eaters had a nest along the track we were walking & they had returned, so we had to be very careful where we stepped & not too long near the area has not to disturb the pair. A fluting Golden Oriole was keeping everyone guessing to where it was perched in the small orchard, as we continued searching the area for butterflies & birds.

The meadow was awash with different shades of yellow particularly from *Tetragonolobus maritimus*, & Yellow-rattle. Common Restharrow was just coming out, but not in its full brilliance of pink. The feathery heads of *Stipa borystherica* swayed in the breeze, and gorgeous stands of yellow *Tragopogon pratensis* stood proudly opening up in the sun.

Quail called from the grassland area, Yellow Wagtail's fed around the feet of the local cattle, as we tried to stealth-like creep up on any suspecting butterflies, such as Eastern Bath White, Brown Argus, Mazarine & Green-underside Blue to name a few from the assortment that we were seeing. In the distant Montagu's & Marsh Harriers soared above the remaining reeds, before Chris pointed out a lovely male Golden Oriole in the nearby trees.

A slow walk back Amanda found an unfurling Cardinal along the grassy edge, before several basking Glanville Fritillary's were taking everyone's attention as they basked in the rising temperatures along the sandy track. A Hoopoe was heard calling near the orchard, where Gabor & Tony got some lovely views of the bird.

Lunch was al-fresco style back at the Tanya, where an unusual ground beetle *Calosoma sycophanta* was spotted by Amanda on the main Poplar tree at the lodge. Gabor got quite excited over this find. There was time for a quick look around the pond where Broad-bodied Chaser & Emperor patrolled the water, while Marsh Frog & Red-bellied Toads called around the edge, before we headed out for our afternoon's exploration of the area. We didn't travel too far before turning off along a sandy track and stopping next to a horse field, where the inquisitive European Suslik lived or 'running sausages' as they are commonly known. Several Susliks were standing on parade, looking like Meerkats on sentry duty. Ann pointed out several impressive spikes of *Anchusa officinalis*. Some of the group decided to walk the next stretch, spotting a Brown Hare, which are larger than ours along the path, before meeting up with the rest of the group who were all absorbed watching the large Bee-eater colony in front of them. After a while, we tore ourselves from the dazzling colourful spectacular crossing the field of drooping heads of *Carduus nutans*, and stands of *Salvia pratensis* towards the traditional Puszha church. Gabor explained the history & unusualness of this building, which at present is being restored. It is thought it is the only one of its kind left standing. We wandered round to the small plantation to see if we could find any Rollers, but only distant views, the Lesser Grey Shrike was more of an attraction.

It was also hard not to notice the distant dark colouring of the sky that was starting to surround us, along with the clapping of the thunder trolls. Time had passed so we decided to head back to the Tanya. The massive dark menacing sky enhanced the vivid red of the roadside poppies & pink of the Nodding Thistles, quite a stunning sight. Due to the pending wet front, a brief stop was made at the small woodland before Kondor to look for some owls that Gabor had been told about.

A family of Red-backed Shrike greeted us as we headed into the small spinney, before Gabor motioned us to stop & look up. There above us were several large red eyes peering down, the feathery appearance of these large brown bundles, indicated that they were young & as they flew we realised they must have just flown the nest. In total six Long-eared Owls were spotted, two adults & four young, what a stupendous sight to end the day. It had been a

fantastic day with lots of amazing sights, & we ended it with another tasty Hungarian meal as the rain gently fell outside.

Day 3

Monday 26th May

Tiszaalpár – Tóserdő Area

Another fresh morning as we hopped into the vehicle, but we knew to take the sun-cream as temperatures suppose to hit the thirties today & it would be a long drive as we were heading for the SE region of Kiskunság National Park near the Lower Tisza floodplains, the Spark and the Alpári-meadow, which is commonly known as the Tóserdő.

Our first stop was at Tóserdő Forest, an important area for Grey Headed and Black Woodpecker. The woodland is predominantly Oak-Ash with beautiful stands of White Poplar and Aspen. Last year we could not walk too far into the forest due to the severe floods, this year the flooding had not been that bad so it was possible to walk towards the marsh meadow.

A Nightingale sang loudly from the bushes as mosquito cream was applied before we started to walk down the woodland path. The forest was very tranquil as we listened hard for any sound of a woodpecker. Nuthatch, Chaffinch & Great Tit drank from a path pool. Short-toed Treecreeper skipped up the trunks of the larger trees, before flying to another one. It was while trying to locate a Middle Spotted Woodpecker that we heard a Tawny Owl. Eventually, it came nearer, in fact there were two. At first there were fly-overs, but then one sat in the higher branches calling. It was this moment that we will all remember, particular when a male Golden Oriole joined the calling bird, it was one of those '*magic moments*'.

We continued through the woodland & headed for the marsh meadow & watch-tower that looked over the ox-bow lake. Pygmy & Common Cormorants perched on the various dead trees around the lake, several Ferruginous Duck fed in between the floats of White Water-lily & Yellow Globe flower. There were no terns flying which was quite a surprise, but apparently it was due to the abnormal weather that had moved them on. A Night Heron kept us entertained as it flew back-and-forth before landing in a dead tree, posing nicely for the camera. Before we started to head back Tony spied a Black Stork flying in the distant.

Walking back through the wood, a Black Woodpecker thundered out its drumming, but we still could not spot it, so we left it to its loud drumming & headed for lunch which was eaten under the shade of the Lime trees at the Baroque Catholic Church at Tiszaalpár, overlooking the very wet Kolon Alpári-meadow & a very large ox-bow lake.

A brief look over the ox-bow produced Grey Heron, Great White Egret & Spoonbill. We decided to walk down to the meadow, where Purple Heron & a loud reeling Savi's Warbler gave some of the group fantastic view at the river edge. The other half of the group was watching the numerous dragonflies as they skimmed the water, but none stopping for ID purposes.

The afternoon was drawing in so we started our way back, stopped off at the Art Nouveau city of Kecskemét. One or two of the group got out to walk across the centre to take in this lively & green city, with its collection of splendid masterpieces of architecture. Back at Kondor, Chris & Tony had gone to try & take photos of the dark foreboding sky that we had become accustomed to in the evening, for the rest of us, Gabor had found a mole on the cellar steps. Once we had all seen it, Gabor ceremoniously put it in a plastic biscuit container & carried it out holding it like a luxurious cake, before gently laying it down. The mole promptly dug down into the sandy soil.

Day 4

Tuesday 27th May

Kigyos River Channel – Lake Kolon

The morning started with drizzle, but shortly after into our journey the sun came out & blue skies reigned for the rest of the day. We were heading towards Kigyos river channel in hope of Great Bustard. The day would finish with a boat ride on Lake Kolon.

We meandered slowly along various dirt tracks, to see what was around. At one point there were several Bee-eaters sitting along the fence wire. This is what Tony had come for and here in front of him were obliging Bee-eaters. The birds would sit beautifully on the various posts along the road, the colours contrasting dramatically against the background. This was not the case for the Roller. In fact although we got some wonderful views of this bird, they never sat around long enough for a photograph.

Continuing our journey we passed through outstanding poppy fields, at one point a Roe Deer bounced from the road through the meadow towards the woodland area. The track soon changed into a firmer road & villages started to appear with their wooden ramshackle houses & picket fences contrasted with smart new colourful buildings. White Storks littered the numerous telegraph poles. We stopped at one that had four young who had their heads popping out.

Eventually we turned down a dirt track & the route took us between working agricultural fields, where tractors ploughed White Storks & Great White Egrets followed. Passing a recently cut & baled field, two Buzzards were spotted one on a bale, the other a dark phase walking on the ground. Looking around we noticed several male, Red-footed Falcons hunting over the field, close to the vehicle so for the next twenty minutes we watched & admired how these small falcons, hovered & controlled their direction before plunging for prey.

Moving on to Kigyos river channel, the group split with some walking to a hummock in the field, where the remainder waited on the bridge. Great Reed Warblers sang in the reeds that lined the river, Swallows swooped underneath the bridge, various dragonflies & damselflies bounced around or zoomed along the channel & a Grass Snake swam across the water. The group in the field eventually returned but no sightings of Great Bustards.

Temperatures were high, so we took lunch under the shade, watching Pygmy Cormorants fly back-and-forth from the channel. From here we headed to Lake Kolon and a treat, a boat trip around Lake Kolon, on one if not the oldest lake in Hungary or maybe the world, as it appears in the first account of maps. Due to the importance of the wetland area, the lake has been designated a Ramsar site & is located in the oldest part of Kiskunság National Park.

The boat was electric & thus it was a gently pace as we cruised along the causeway with Downy Emeralds fiercely patrolling their territory. We kept close to the side of the reedbeds listening to the erupting noise of Marsh Frogs & Black-headed Gulls. Among the countless Black-headed Gulls Whiskered Terns glided along the shallow channels in the reeds. This was the first time we had seen terns all holiday, apparently the lack of terns was all due to the extreme temperatures that Hungary had been witnessing over the past few weeks. Plenty of terns had returned at the beginning of the season, but then with a combination of torrential rain water levels rose & nests were washed out, so they moved on. This was the same for Little Egrets & Lapwings, as we had hardly seen of these two species which were usual very common.

For the next hour or so we took in the charm of Lake Kolon, White Water-lilies decorated the small channel & one channel had the wonderful Water Soldier. Other interesting species included Black-wing Stilt & Squacco Heron, and several individuals of the incredible *Leucorhina pectoralis*. Back on dry land we headed to the ringing station, where a ranger was feeding three young White Storks. Their nest had been knocked down in the storms and their parents had abandoned them. Unfortunately, only one bird had been caught in the

ringing nets a Sedge Warbler, but we were more interested in the Pond-dipping trays that a school group had brought in. One of them contained a Fire-bellied Toad; at last we get to see what one looks like, instead of hearing it all the time.

Travelling back through the varied landscape, it looked like it would be a good evening to go out Nightjar watching, but not before stopping for an obliging Little Owl. After another interesting Hungarian traditional meal, we headed out to the woodland behind the lodge to listen for Nightjar. In the twilight of the evening we had several calling & fly over our heads.

Day 5 Wednesday 28th May Apaj area of the puszta (Great Plain)

After a hearty breakfast & picnic's packed we headed out into the morning light and any sign of rain was dispelled this morning as the temperatures soon soared. Our first destination was next to the road near a river channel & agricultural land in search of Stone Curlew. Even after a couple of stops no Stone Curlew was to be seen. However, Ann did spot an amazing female Red-footed Falcon sitting in a tree next to the road, as we were travelling along.

The rest of the morning was relatively quiet along the various river channels, apart from Penduline Tit, Great Reed & Sedge Warblers calling from the various reedbeds. Purple Heron, Spoonbill, Little & Great White Egret fed from nearby marshy areas. Water Buffalo were also seen grazing or swimming in the river channels.

Lunch on the other hand was a GREAT event. Gabor was taking us down a pretty floristic track along a river over-looking the Great Plains, when Amanda shouted 'Stop'. Gabor knew that shout & stopped suddenly; flushing two Great Bustards next to the van, but the third one had remained. Everyone was in a flurry of excitement, and trying to open the side door without flushing the bird . . . The third Bustard that had stayed was a superb male with splendid whiskers to his fancy, who won't have adorned him! Thus, for the next forty minutes or so cameras clicked & just to add to the scene, there was another male displaying, but he was a bit distant to get a good picture of the display. What a stunning sight we were witnessing, there were great excitement & lots of grins. This is the closest that Gabor or Amanda had seen Great Bustards, stupendous. In total around six birds were spotted, but none as close as the first birds.

Well after that kind of moment! How do you follow that . . . Saker. From here we headed to a spot where we hoped to see Saker, & fortunately we had two adults & one juvenile, albeit a bit distant, although the telescope did give people a better view. The day had started slowly, but what a day of adrenalin, now we made our way back to the looming dark clouds. There was a bit of a down pour, but nothing compared to earlier in the week. The day ended with another hearty traditional meal, before retiring to bed.

**Day 6 Thursday 29th May Bugyi Fishponds - Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes -
Fülöpháza Sand Dunes - Kiskunság**

It was a bit of a surprise when we woke to overcast skies. Jumpers were also needed just to go to breakfast. A quick look at the lodge pond provided some fascinating views of Marsh Frog calling with its protruding pouches, before heading off to a fishpond complex near Bugyi. Chris had to go for a nature stop, but got more than he bargained for, when a Grass Snake decided he wanted to share the same spot! A true nature spot.

A family flock of Penduline Tits greeted us as we slowly walked to the fishponds. They were busy feeding in one of the low-lying scrubby bushes; every now-and-again the juveniles would fly out & precariously balance on a bouncing reed head, against the calls of the adult birds.

In due course, we moved on to the puszta of Sós-ér & Böddi-szék, part of the sodic chain of lakes in the Kiskunság, covering over 700 hectares, and of international importance for wildfowl and shorebirds. A Nightingale deafened us as we watched the small party of tits in the trees behind us, while a Golden Oriole called from the tall poplar trees. The morning was cool, which was keeping the butterflies & dragonflies down, although White-legged Damselflies floated-by as they landed gently on a leaf. After a while we continued along the path to the river channel. Cuckoos called from the far banking, a couple of which landed next to a Night Heron that was sitting out peening on an over-hanging branch, in fact there were four Night Herons in the same tree.

From here we headed towards the sodic lake of Sós-ér & Böddi-szék. A brief stop was made for a pair of Red-footed Falcons, which were very distant, so we headed on to the sodic lake. Avocet & Black-winged Stilts greeted us as we drove alongside the water's edge. Shelduck & Gadwall were also feeding around the lake, but otherwise it was very quiet. Looking across the plain from the tower a pair of Stone Curlews were spotted. We had some fantastic views of these well camouflage birds as they walked around in the open.

A Lesser Grey Shrike flitted around the posts & hay bales as we sat & ate our lunch in the warmth of the vehicle or on the steps of the tower. After which we headed out to Fülöpháza Sand Dunes, formed from sand derived from the deposit of Ancient Danube. This habitat is unique across Central Europe as it is land-locked. It was an interesting walk around the sandy habitat, but very quiet birdwise, which might be a result of the cool afternoon.

The day ended in a park area in the town of Kiskunság looking for Syrian Woodpecker. We found a nesting hole, but no bird was calling or could be found in the surrounding trees, twenty minutes we were making our way back to the Tanya for a drink, downloading & checking of photos or from some a walk to watch the nearby Bee-eaters, before another hearty & delicious Hungarian cuisine. There was a bit of a surprise at the end of the meal when out came a huge cake, baked locally for Amanda's birthday, we would be eating this for two days! Thank you Andrea & Gabor.

Day 7 Friday 30th May Kunpezser Viper Centre - Bugyi Area

It was cool & grey this morning a bit of a shock to the system compared to the temperatures of the past few days. Hats & jumpers were put on as we walked out of Kondor to the vehicle. It wasn't really the ideal morning to go looking for snakes, as we were heading for Hungarian Meadow Viper Conservation Centre. The centre was situated in the middle of the National Park, with little disturbance from humans, an ideal situation in which to rear the endangered viper species.

Hungarian Meadow Viper Conservation Centre

The Hungarian Meadow Viper (*Vipera ursinii rakosiensis*) is the most endangered snake in Europe, with an estimated wild population of around 500 specimens in Hungary and Romania. Once widespread on the Hungarian Plain, the Hungarian meadow viper is now limited to Hanság, in grasslands close to the Austrian border, and Kiskunság, on the 'puszta' plains south of Budapest, where the remaining populations survive in the Kiskunság National Park. The meadow viper is a small, non-lethal snake that grows to around 50 cm.

Its natural habitat has been greatly reduced, notably by massive conversion to intensive agriculture and forestry

We met Csaba, who is the species ranger who looks after the area, & for the next two hours Csaba told us about the Viper programme how to identify the species & their importance & value towards the ecological system of the park. Even though the morning was cool, several vipers were out, allowing the group to see the head markings that Csaba was talking about to ID each individual snake. Walking over to the area where they are released, two Red-backed Shrikes were sitting out listening to the neighbouring Nightingale next to them. Ann then pointed out movement, which turned out to be a Wryneck, nice find. Looking across the grassy plain in front of us several Short-toed Eagles were hovering over the area, in fact one passed overhead holding a snake. Csaba said it was more than likely a viper, after looking at the pictures on the digital cameras.

We said our thank you & headed for the rolling grass hummocks of the Great Plains for lunch. It was a bit windy so lunch was eaten inside, or for those who wanted to brave it they could climb the hummock. The grassy hummock gave an excellent vantage point to scan the massive steppe plain for Great Bustard, and from the hummock we could also see just how flat the steppe area was. Today, the steppe was quiet Gabor had seen a distant Great Bustard flying away, while White & Black Stork circled in the distant sky. A walk in the grassy meadow on the mound produced a lovely swathe of *Silene italic subsp. nemoralis*, a bit of a rarity in Hungary, while below the hummock there were some wonderful stands of *Campanula persicifolia* & *Orobanche picridis*, scattered amongst the assembly of dry grassland plants & grasses, as well as squeaking Susliks.

From here we headed to a wonderful site for Bee-eaters. There were plenty of birds around, including a lot of mating, preening, branch perching & bubbling. An hour went very quickly as we took in the colour feast in front of our eyes, it is indeed a special place to enjoy these wonderful birds. In due course we had to leave & continued along the road in search of Collared Pratincoles, which was happened upon next to a wondrous display of poppies. Another couple had joined the group & Colin had spotted one flying across the agricultural field. Once we all got our eyes in, around six birds were counted on the ground, unfortunately they were distant, but the scope allowed the group to get some good views. After which we turned round & headed back to the Tanya for a welcoming hot drink, what a difference to the weather from the beginning of the week.

Day 8 Saturday 31st May Kondor environs - Fishponds - Budapest City

We had another full day before our evening flights back to England. Thus, we headed out taking a slow drive along the back route through the agricultural fields. The numerous Bee-eaters of the first colony were busy guarding their holes, feeding or general checking each other out. We stopped when a bird gave some good photography opportunities, but away from the nest holes. The agricultural fields were just as floristic as the grassy meadows, with swathes of purple from *Vicia crecca* & *Anchusa officinalis*, pink from the delicate *Agrostemma githago* and of course the blood red from the *Papaver rhoeas*, not forgetting the blue of *Centaurea cyanus* & white of *Anthemis ruthenica*.

The route ended at a cemetery, which was unusual in that it is on a mound in the middle of a grassy field. However, we were heading for the reedbeds further along the sandy track, where it might be possible to hear River Warbler, but not on this occasion. Nevertheless, some of the group had brief views of Lesser Spotted Woodpecker & walking back to the van a Short-toed Eagle flew low over the van, giving some excellent identification features for the

species. The grassy meadow below the cemetery held small swathes of *Orchis coriophora* spikes.

Our next stop was back to the fishpond area, which we had visited on a previous day. Colin had had some interesting birds so we thought it would be good to re-visit the site & wondered how we had missed the spot on our previous excursion. This proved very fruitful with a variety of waterbirds, feeding in the meadows such as Spoonbill, Great White Egret & Little Egrets probing around the marshy areas. Ann pointed out six Common Cranes flying in front of the van, before they promptly landed in the marshy reedbeds out of view. Further along the marshy meadow a Common Bittern flew along the reed edge, before landing & disappearing. Ducks included Shoveler, Pochard & Garganey, Avocet & displaying Black-tailed Godwit were also a delight to see. How did we miss all these birds, it just shows that it is worth returning to the same spot. We also had an impressive herd of Hungarian Grey Cattle with calves crossing the watery marsh in front of us. To cap the flurry of species, just before the vehicle started to move on, a Little Bittern flew over the bridge.

Before heading back to the airport, we had time to do a bit of sight-seeing around Budapest by mini- van. The city is quite amazing; with some amazing buildings & of course we had some excellent guides to tell us all about the history of the city, thank you Gabor & Andrea. Soon it was time to make our way back to the airport & say our goodbyes, before we all departed for our different flights.

Summary

The weather was quite dramatic & very unusual for this time of year. The week started with temperatures in the thirties dropping suddenly down to eight. We were not really affected by rain for our daily activities, but it had had an adverse effect on the surrounding fauna & flora, notably the lack of terns around the river areas. Nevertheless, we will all be taking home different memories of the holiday, from a very tranquil boat trip, colour feast of birds & field verges, to the very tasty home cooked Hungarian food, particularly the pancakes!

Itinerary

Day 1	Saturday 24th May	Arrival & transfer to Kondor Tanya via Ócsa
Day 2	Sunday 25th May	Kondor Environs – Kumpuszda
Day 3	Monday 26th May	Tiszaalpár – Tóserdő Area
Day 4	Tuesday 27th May	Kigyos River Channel – Lake Kolon
Day 5	Wednesday 28th May	Apaj area of the puszta (Great Plain)
Day 6	Thursday 29th May	Bugyi Fishponds – Böddi-szék Sodidic Lakes - Fülöpháza Sand Dunes – Kiskunság
Day 7	Friday 30th May	Kunpeszér Viper Centre – Bugyi Area
Day 8	Saturday 31st May	Kondor environs – Fishponds – Budapest City

Systematic Lists

Systematic List – Reptiles & Amphibians

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Reptiles & Amphibians of Europe, Arnold*. A total of seven species was recorded for the trip.

Fire-bellied Toad	<i>Bombina bombina</i>	this species was mainly heard around water-edges, but we were fortunate enough to see one in the pond-dipping tray
Marsh Frog	<i>Rana ridibunda</i>	a very common species around riparian channels & pools, often serenading us as we wandered around, including back at Kondor Tanya pond
Edible Frog	<i>Pelophylax kl. esculentus</i>	one was calling from the trees as we walked along the grassy track to Lake Kondor
European Pond Terrapin	<i>Emys orbicularis</i>	mainly spied basking on logs in & near water areas
Green Lizard	<i>Lacerta viridis</i>	mainly spotted around Kondor Tanya
Sand Lizard	<i>Lacerta agilis</i>	recorded around dry sandy areas
Hungarian Meadow Viper	<i>Vipera ursinii rakosiensis</i>	several seen in the captive breeding pens

Systematic List - Birds

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Bird Guide 2nd edition*. A total of 125 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	recorded by water bodies (26, 28 & 29)
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	occasionally around marshy meadows (26, 28 & 29)

Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	a rare bird for Hungary, common around the sodic lakes, Böddi-szék, SE of Kiskunsag National Park (29), & a pair around the afternoon lakes (30)
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	common, seen almost everyday
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	a pair recorded on the Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (29)
Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	only recorded on the last day on the Fishpond Lake (31)
Garganey	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	a lovely species, but only recorded on the last day (31)
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	only recorded on the last day on the Fishpond Lake (31)
Ferruginous Duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	the commonest of the wildfowl other than mallard, around water bodies (26, 27 & 31)
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix Perdix</i>	a pair crossing the road (28)
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	this species was very vocal over the week, but never seen
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	common, seen almost everyday
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	recorded on water bodies (26 & 27)
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	recorded on the large lakes (26 & 27)
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	recorded around the ox-bow lake in the Tóserdő area (26)
Pygmy Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax pygmeus</i>	recorded in small numbers around the ox-bow lake in the Tóserdő area (26); & small numbers in the dead trees at Lake Kolon (27)
Common Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	this species was seen flying over a river channel of reedbeds at the Fishponds (31)
Little Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	one flew along the channel as we were all boarding the mini-bus near the Fishponds (31)
Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	several good views of this species including up to four sitting on a branch over the river channel at Bugyi Fishponds (26 & 29)
Squacco Heron	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	recorded around Lake Kolon (27)
Little Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	a common species but only recorded the one day (28)
Great White Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>	common & regularly encountered around water bodies
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	common & regularly encountered around water bodies
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	frequently seen around marshy areas over the trip
White Stork	<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	common, almost everyday
Black Stork	<i>Ciconia nigra</i>	occasionally seen across the week (26, 28 & 30)
Spoonbill	<i>Platalea leucorodia</i>	occasional sightings near large lakes (26 & 28)
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	we eventually got on to this species, if a bit of a distant view at the end of the day around Kiskunság (29)
Short-toed Eagle	<i>Circaetus gallicus</i>	several seen hovering over the Kunpeszér Viper Centre, including one catching a viper (30)
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	common, seen everyday
Montagu's Harrier	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	frequently seen quartering over farm land
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	common, seen everyday
Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	this species was only recorded on the first day around Kondor Lake (25)
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	encountered over the first part of the trip (24, 25 & 26)
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	common, seen everyday

Red-footed Falcon	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	this fantastic bird was a delight for the group & regularly seen over the week (27 – 30)
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	regularly recorded over the course of the week
Saker	<i>Falco cherrug</i>	good views of adults & young (28)
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	surprising only recorded the one day (26)
Coot	<i>Filica atra</i>	common on large water bodies (26 & 28)
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Ann spotted six birds flying into the fishpond area on our last day (31)
Great Bustard	<i>Otis tarda</i>	well what can I say about these truly magnificent birds, we got some amazing views, the closest that Amanda or Gabor had seen, just superb (28); a fly-by on the (30)
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	recorded around shallow pool areas at Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (29)
Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	recorded at Lake Kolon (27)
Stone Curlew	<i>Burhinus oedicephalus</i>	a pair in the stony meadow at Böddi-szék Sodic Lakes (29)
Collared Pratincole	<i>Glareola pratincola</i>	several birds were seen in the agricultural fields around Bugyi (30)
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	common, recorded everyday
Redshank	<i>Tringa tetanus</i>	only recorded the once (30)
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	several lovely breeding plumage birds seen at the Great Plain (28); & agricultural fields around Bugyi (30)
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	only recorded around the Apaj area of the puszta (28)
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	common of the gulls seen most days
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	several individuals recorded following the tractor in the agricultural fields around Bugyi (30)
Yellow-legged Gull	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	scattered records of this species (24, 26, 29 & 30)
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	an immature bird on the Fishpond Lake (31)
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	only recorded along the river channel at Bugyi (29)
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	one was spotted quartering along the Fishpond Lake (31)
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	commonest of all the terns but then only over three days (27 – 29)
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	common & seen everyday
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	common & seen everyday
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	frequently seen around urban areas
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	this lovely dove rare in Britain, recorded everyday
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	heard or seen everyday
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	a family group of this gorgeous species was a bit of an unexpected bonus, in the small wooded copse near Kondor Lodge (25)
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	a pair was calling in the Tőserdő Forest & gave excellent views when one perched in a high branch calling (26)
Little Owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>	this chunky little species is always a winner when it is perched close by particularly on the telegraph wire (27 – 30)

Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	we had excellent views of three birds flying around our heads, as well as plenty of churring, (27)
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	only recorded on two days at the airport (24); around urban buildings (30)
Hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>	common & seen everyday
Bee-eater	<i>Merops apiaster</i>	this gorgeous bird was seen everyday, with a bit of a wow factor on (30)
Roller	<i>Coracias garrulus</i>	another gorgeous bird, seen everyday
Black Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus martius</i>	an elusive individual was drumming in the woodland area at Tiszaalpár (26)
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	occasional sightings of this species (25, 28 & 29)
Great spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	the commonest recorded of the woodpecker species (25, 26, 29 & 30)
Syrian Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos syriacus</i>	an individual was flying around the trees during lunch at the church in Tőserdő (26); another individual was seen around the urban town (30)
Middle Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos medius</i>	a call was heard in the woodland area at Tiszaalpár (26)
Lesser-spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	an individual was heard in the woodland area at Tiszaalpár (26); another was seen fleetingly along the footpath near the cemetery in the field (31)
Wryneck	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>	an elusive species, that Ann found in the woodland next to the Kunpezér Viper Centre (30)
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	frequently seen on most days around the grassy plains & meadows
Crested Lark	<i>Galerida cristata</i>	recorded everyday around the grassy plains & meadows, often giving some excellent views
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	small flocks seen around Bugyi area (28 - 30)
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	recorded everyday
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	recorded everyday
Tawny Pipit	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	two individuals were seen around the agricultural area near Kondor Lodge (25); a bird was seen around the Apaj area of the puszta (28)
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	common & recorded everyday
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	common & recorded everyday
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	common & recorded everyday
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	this elusive bird was seen & recorded regularly each day
Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	occasionally (25 & 27)
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochrurus</i>	recorded everyday around urban areas & the Tanya
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	only the once around the Great Plain (28)
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	mainly recorded around the grassy meadows (24 & 30)
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquata</i>	common & recorded on most days
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	around urban areas (24 & 26)
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	around the outskirts of urban areas (25 - 26)
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	frequent & recorded everyday

Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	heard or seen everyday
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	heard or seen most days around reed-beds
Savi's Warbler	<i>Locustella luscinioides</i>	around reedbeds (26 – 27)
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	one was heard singing from the reedbed near the Lake area (26)
Great Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>	a common species around riverine vegetation over the week
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	at the beginning of the trip around woodlands (24 – 26)
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	heard or seen most days over the trip
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	mainly recorded around wooded areas (24 – 26)
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	heard or seen most days
Blue Tit	<i>Parus caeruleus</i>	usually a common species, but only recorded over couple of days (26 & 29)
Penduline Tit	<i>Remiz pendulinus</i>	excellent views of this delightful species around river channels (28, 29 & 31)
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	recorded around Tiszaalpár (26)
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	only a brief sighting of this species around the wooded area at Tiszaalpár (26)
Lesser Grey Shrike	<i>Lanius minor</i>	an attractive bird recorded most days
Red-backed Shrike	<i>Lanius collurio</i>	a striking bird recorded everyday
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	recorded everyday
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	frequent sightings over the trip
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	recorded around urban areas (27 – 30)
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	occasional recorded, mainly around cut meadows (27 – 30)
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	seen everyday in all habitats
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	seen & heard everyday
Golden Oriole	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	seen & heard everyday
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	seen & heard everyday
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	seen & heard everyday
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	seen & heard everyday
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	surprisingly only recorded the once around the agricultural fields near the Bee-eaters (31)
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	common, seen or heard everyday
Hawfinch	<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>	only recorded on a couple of days (24 & 26)
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	recorded around the agricultural fields (28 – 29)
Corn Bunting	<i>Miliaria calandra</i>	seen & heard everyday, singing from prominent posts around grassy meadows

Systematic List - Butterflies

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of *Collins: Butterflies of Europe*, Tolman & Lewington. A total of 22 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	surprisingly only recorded on two days (24 & 27)
Eastern Bath White	<i>Pontia edusa</i>	this delightful species was only recorded the one day in the florist meadow near Lake Kondor (25)
Clouded Yellow sp.		a specimen of this family was seen zipping pass the group as we walked along the grassy track at Lake Kondor (25)
Large Copper	<i>Lycaena dispar</i>	a fleeting glimpse of this attractive species along a road side stop (27)
Little Blue	<i>Cupido minimus</i>	recorded in the early part of the trip (25 - 26)
Green-underside Blue	<i>Glaucopteryx alexis</i>	recorded in the floristic meadows of the first day (25)
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	recorded in the floristic meadows of the first day (25)
Brown Argus	<i>Aricia agestis</i>	recorded in the floristic meadows of the first day (25)
Mazarine Blue	<i>Cyaniris semiargus</i>	recorded in the floristic meadows of the first day (25)
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus Icarus</i>	recorded in the early part of the trip (25 - 26)
Lesser Purple Emperor	<i>Apatura ilia</i>	a beautiful specimen puddling along the woodland path in Ócsa woodland (24)
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	occasionally in various habitats (24 - 26)
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	several individuals on the first day (24)
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	frequently over the course of the week
Cardinal	<i>Argynnis pandora</i>	occasional sightings of this large butterfly with a fresh individual uncurling in the meadow near Lake Kondor (24 - 25)
Queen of Spain Fritillary	<i>Issoria lathonia</i>	this easily recognisable species was the commonest of the fritillaries, recorded everyday
Granville Fritillary	<i>Melitaea cinxia</i>	after some hard scrutinizing this species was identified along the grassy path towards Lake Kondor (25)
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	common & recorded most days around grassy meadows
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	common, seen most everyday
Wall Brown	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	recorded near the woodland area Lake Kondor (25)
Grizzled Skipper	<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	along the grassy bank Lake Kondor (25)
Large Skipper	<i>Ochlodes venatus</i>	frequently recorded over the trip

Systematic List - Dragonflies

The taxonomic nomenclature & systematic order follows both that of BHP - *Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain & Europe*, Klaas-Douwe B Dijkstra. A total of 10 species was recorded for the trip. The numbers indicate the dates on which a species was seen.

Blue-tailed Damselfly	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	odd individuals around the water-edge vegetation
White-legged Damselfly	<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	commonest of the damselflies around the edges of the various water bodies

Norfolk Hawker	<i>Aeshna isosceles</i>	only recorded on the one day near the bridge at Kigyos River Channel (27)
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	frequent around water bodies, including the pond at Kondor Tanya
Lesser Emperor	<i>Anax parthenope</i>	an individual around the reedbeds at Lake Kolon (27)
Downy Emerald	<i>Somatochlora aenea</i>	a couple of males were patrolling along the small inlet along the causeway at Lake Kolon (27)
Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	frequently recorded around water bodies
Black-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	frequently recorded around water bodies
White-tailed Skimmer	<i>Orthetrum albistylum</i>	only recorded the one day near the fishponds, mainly females (29)
Large White-faced Darter	<i>Leucorrhinia pectoralis</i>	individuals of this lovely dragonfly were only recorded at Lake Kolon (27)

Systematic List – Mammals

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

Brown Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	a common species seen most days during the trip, around agricultural areas
European Suslik	<i>Citellus citellus</i>	these cheeky rodents were mainly heard around grassy areas, but we had some excellent views of them in the horse meadow next to Kondor Tanya (25)
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	recorded over several days, around wooded areas & bouncing around the meadow areas
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	Gabor showed a lovely specimen of this creature as it had fallen down the steps towards the cellar (it was released safely) (26)
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	recorded around the Apaj area of the puszta (28)
Stoat	<i>Mustela ermine</i>	one was seen swimming across a water channel on Lake Kolon (27)
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	recorded around the woodland area near Fülöpháza Sand Dunes (29)

Systematic List – Plants

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

Dennstaedtiaceae

Pteridium aquilinum Bracken

Pinaceae

Pinus sylvestris Scots Pine

Cannabaceae

Cannabis sativa Marijuana

Aristolochiaceae

Aristolochia clematitis European Birthwort

Nymphaeaceae

Nymphaea alba White Water Lily – Lake Kolon

Ranunculaceae

Caltha palustris Marsh Marigold

Consolida regalis Forking Larkspur

Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup

Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup

Papaveraceae

Chelidonium majus Greater Celandine

Papaver argemone Prickly Poppy

Papaver dubium Long-headed Poppy

Papaver rhoeas Corn Poppy – fantastic displays of this attractive species

Ulmaceae

Ulmus canescens Grey-leafed Elm

Urticaceae

Urtica dioica Stinging Nettle

Fagaceae

Quercus robur Common Oak

Betulaceae

Alnus glutinosa Alder

Alnus viridis Green Alder

Betula pendula Silver Birch

Corylus avellana Hazel

Caryophyllaceae

Agrostemma githago Corncockle

Dianthus pottederae Hungarian Pink

Silene alba White Campion

Silene conica Sand Catchfly

Silene italica subsp. nemoralis Roman Catchfly

Silene vulgaris Bladder Campion

Stellaria media Common Chickweed

Simaroubaceae

Ailanthus altissima – Tree of Heaven introduced plant

Platanaceae

Platanus × acerifolia London Plane

Malvaceae

Malva sylvestris Common Mallow

Tiliaceae

Tilia cordata Small-leaved Lime

Tilia platyphyllos Large-leaved Lime

Brassicaceae

Alliaria petiolata Garlic Mustard

Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherd's-purse

Erysimum cheiranthoides Treacle Mustard

Violaceae

Viola arvensis Field Pansy

Salicaceae

Populus alba White Poplar
Populus canescens Grey Poplar
Populus nigra Black Poplar
Populus tremula Aspen
Salix alba White Willow
Salix caprea Goat Willow
Salix mielichhoferi Austrian Willow

Resedaceae

Reseda lutea Wild Mignonette

Rosaceae

Agrimonia eupatoria Agrimony
Aruncus dioicus Goatsbeard
Filipendula ulmaria Meadowsweet
Filipendula vulgaris Dropwort
Fragaria vesca Wild Strawberry
Geum urbanum Herb Bennet
Potentilla argentea Hoary Cinquefoil
Potentilla erecta Tormentil
Prunus spinosa Blackthorn
Rosa canina Dog Rose
Rubus fruticosus Bramble

Fabaceae

Amorpha fruticosa Indigo Bush (introduced plant)
Anthyllis vulneraria Kidney-vetch
Astragalus asper Rough Milkvetch
Coronilla varia Crown Vetch
Lathyrus pratensis Meadow Vetchling
Lathyrus tuberosus Tuberous Vetch
Lotus corniculatus Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Lotus pedunculatus Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil
Medicago minima Bur Medick
Medicago sativa Lucerne
Melilotus officinalis Yellow Sweet-clover
Ononis repens Common Restharrow (only in leaf)
Robinia pseudo-acacia False Acacia
Tetragonolobus maritimus Yellow Dragon's-teeth
Trifolium campestre Hop Trefoil
Trifolium pratense Red Clover
Trifolium repens White Clover
Vicia crecca Tufted Vetch
Vicia sativa Common Vetch

Elaeagnaceae

Elaeagnus angustifolia Russian Olive

Trapaceae

Trapa natans - Water-chestnut

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia amygdaloides Wood Spurge
Euphorbia cyparissias Cypress Spurge
Euphorbia nicaeensis Nice Spurge
Mercurialis perennis Dog's Mercury

Rhamnaceae

Frangula alnus Alder Buckthorn

Rhamnus cathartica Buckthorn

Linaceae

Linum perenne Perennial Flax

Polygalaceae

Polygala comosa Tufted Milkwort

Polygala vulgaris Common Milkwort

Hippocastanaceae

Aesculus hippocastanum Horse Chestnut

Aceraceae

Acer campestre Field Maple

Acer platanoides Norway Maple

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore

Araliaceae

Hedera helix Ivy

Geraniaceae

Geranium molle Dove's-foot Stork's-bill

Erodium cicutarium Common Stork's-bill

Balsaminaceae

Impatiens noli-tangere – Touch-me-not Balsam

Apiaceae

Eryngium campestre Field Eryngo

Heracleum sphondylium Hogweed

Sanicula europaea Sanicle

Apocynaceae

Asclepias syriaca American Milkweed – (an introduced invasive species)

Solanaceae

Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet

Convolvulaceae

Calystegia sepium Hedge Bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed

Boraginaceae

Anchusa officinalis Common Bugloss

Cynoglossum officinale Hound's-tongue

Echium vulgare Viper's Bugloss

Lithospermum officinale Common Gromwell

Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum Purple Gromwell

Pentaglottis sempervirens Green Alkanet

Symphytum tuberosum Tuberous Comfrey

Lamiaceae

Lycopus europaeus Gipsywort

Mentha longifolia Horsemint

Salvia pratensis Meadow Clary

Salvia verbenaca Wild Clary

Thymus pannonicus Hungarian Thyme

Thymus vulgaris Common Thyme

Plantaginaceae

Plantago lanceolata Ribwort

Plantago media Hoary Plantain

Oleaceae

Fraxinus excelsior Ash

Fraxinus ornus Manna Ash

Scrophulariaceae

Rhinanthus minor Yellow Rattle

Rhinanthus pulcher Greater Yellow-rattle

Verbascum nigrum Dark Mullein

Verbascum Thapsus Great Mullein

Veronica serpyllifolia Thyme-leaved Speedwell

Orobanchaceae

Orobanche picridis Oxtongue Broomrape

Lentibulariaceae

Utricularia vulgaris Common Bladderwort

Campanulaceae

Campanula persicifolia Peach-leaved Bellflower

Rubiaceae

Cruciata glabra Crosswort

Galium aparine Goosegrass

Galium palustre Common Marsh Bedstraw

Galium verum Lady's Bedstraw

Caprifoliaceae

Lonicera periclymenum Honeysuckle

Sambucus nigra Common Elder

Viburnum opulus Guelder Rose

Dipsacaceae

Dipsacus fullonum Teasel

Knautia arvensis Field Scabious

Scabiosa columbaria Small Scabious

Scabiosa ochroleuca Cream Scabious - a species of *Scabiosa* with creamy yellow flower heads

Asteraceae

Achillea distans Tansyleaf Milfoil

Anthemis ruthenica Eastern Chamomile

Artemisia vulgaris Mugwort

Bellis perennis Daisy

Carduus nutans Musk/Nodding Thistle

Centaurea cyanus Cornflower

Centaurea scabiosa Greater Knapweed

Cirsium arvense Creeping Thistle

Cirsium palustre Marsh Thistle

Matricaria chamomilla Scented Mayweed

Taraxacum officinale Dandelion

Tragopogon pratensis Goat's-beard - lovely stands of this yellow plant across the meadows

Butomaceae

Butomus umbellatus Flowering Rush

Hydrocharitaceae

Elodea canadensis - Canadian Waterweed

Hydrocharis morsus-ranae - Frog-bit

Stratiotes aloides - Water Soldier

Alismataceae

Sagittaria sagittifolia - Arrowhead

Sparganiaceae

Sparganium minimum – Small Bur-reed

Sparganium erectum – Branched Bur-reed

Poaceae

Agrostis stolonifera Creeping Bent-grass

Alopecurus pratensis Meadow Foxtail

Anthoxanthum odoratum Sweet Vernal-grass

Arrhenatherum elatius False Oat-grass

Briza media Quaking-grass

Dactylis glomerata Cock's-foot

Festuca vaginata Hungarian Fescue – common grass found across the steppes

Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass

Melica uniflora Wood Melick

Phleum pratense Timothy

Phragmites australis Common Reed

Poa annua Annual Meadow-grass

Poa pratensis Smooth Meadow-grass

Poa trivialis Rough Meadow-grass

Stipa borysthencia Sand Feather-grass

Typhaceae

Typha angustifolia Lesser Bulrush

Typha latifolia Bulrush

Liliaceae

Polygonatum multiflorum Solomon's Seal

Iridaceae

Iris pseudacourus Yellow Iris

Iris spuria Beardless Iris

Muscari comosa Tassel Hyacinth

Orchidaceae

Orchis coriophora Bug Orchid

Orchis laxiflora subsp. *palustris* Marsh Lax-flower Orchid