

Birds Of Slovakia

*From the Tatras to the
eastern plains*

a group birding en route to the east



Little Crane favours marshes along Latorica river



ORAVA

This large area of hills and mountains with broad open valleys is located only one and a half hours south of Krakow and comprises a nice variety of habitats. Besides the high mountains there are many peat bogs in Orava, as well as rocky areas and old forests with woodpeckers and owls.

LIPTOV

Similarly to Orava there is a large artificial lake in the middle of Liptov basin. It is reputedly the most beautiful region of the country with a ring of mountains all around and pastures at their foothills.

EAST SLOVAKIA

Largely flat country surrounded by low hills covered with beech and oak forests. Latorica marshes and Senne ponds are important wetlands. Other habitats include puszta grassland, limestone quarries with Eagle Owls, fields, windbreaks and sand dunes with Bee-eater colonies.



Slovakia is among the longest established birdwatching destinations in Eastern Europe. All Europe's woodpeckers have populations of over 1000 pairs each while owls breed in hundreds of pairs each. The extensive Carpathian mountains offer a fascinating range of forest birds while the plains in the east have little known wetlands and dry areas with Bee-eaters. This tour combines the best examples of habitats ranging from mountain forests and hills to large flat areas with marshes, sand dunes, quarries and fields. Both hotels are set by large artificial lakes with rich littoral vegetation that provide a great habitat for many songbirds. Our local guides have more than twenty years experience of accompanying groups and they help to run the itinerary in the best possible way.



4 flycatchers can be seen in spring



Wryneck typical inhabitant of orchards

Chočské hills



Spišský castle *monumental ruin on our way to the east*



FACT FILE

Slovakia

8 days | 3 hotels

best season: **10 - 30 May**

ground price: see the web site or ask
single room supplement: see the web site or ask

guide: Martin Hrouzek or Adam Bodor

airport: Kraków, Poland or Košice, Slovakia

group size: 5 - 14

number of species: 160 - 190

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

D1 Arrival at Košice or Kraków

D2 Orava region

D3 Chočské Hills

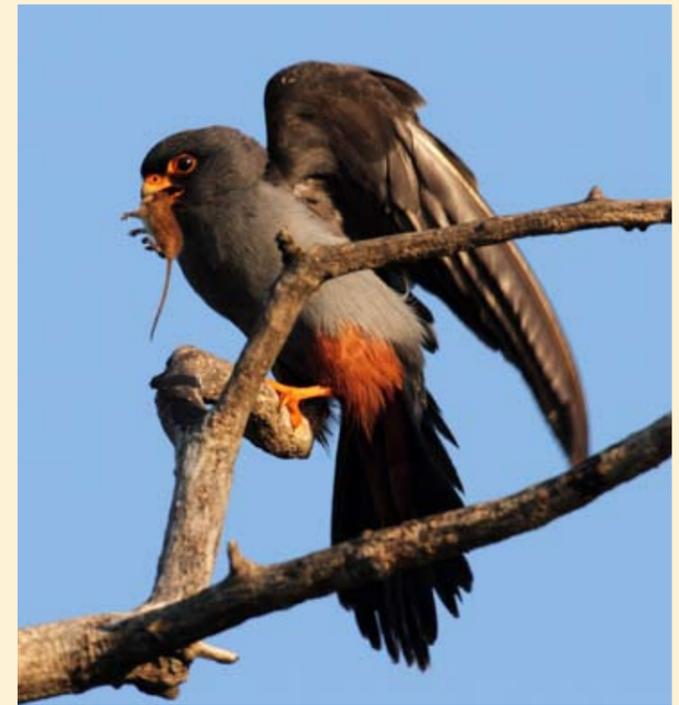
D4 Velká Fatra and Liptov basin

D5 Drive to east Slovakia, Senné ponds

D6 East Slovak lowland, quarry and marshes

D7 East Slovak lowland, fields to see raptors

D8 Departure from Košice or Kraków



Senné ponds

important wetland in the east

Little Stint

often seen in summer plumage





Eagle Owl is often easy to approach



*Rock Bunting
breeds in the east of Slovakia*



HIGHLIGHTS

- Carpathian landscape and forests
- Black Stork
- Pygmy, Tengmalm's, Eagle and Ural Owl
- Saker, Lesser Spotted and Imperial Eagle
- Black and Hazel Grouse
- all Europe's woodpeckers
- Wallcreeper (not every year)
- Bittern, Little Bittern
- Little Crake and marsh terns
- Red-necked Grebe and Ferruginous Duck
- Bee-eater
- Nutcracker and Ring Ouzel
- Barred, Icterine and River Warbler
- Collared and Red-breasted Flycatcher
- Common Rosefinch and Citrine Wagtail
- Lesser Grey Shrike
- Firecrest and Crested Tit

GUIDES AND HOTELS

Martin Hrouzek
Full-time wildlife guide and tour leader. Martin designed many of the company holidays. Besides guiding he works for an NGO and scouts new destinations across eastern Europe. He has led or co- led over 60 wildlife holidays over the past 18 years.

Hotel in Orava region
We use a newly remodelled 3 star hotel in the north of the area close to the Black Grouse leks. Plenty of birds can be seen right outside the small village.

Hotel in Liptov region
There are 2 hotels that suit us best in this area, both near Liptovska Mara reservoir. Vicinity of the lake ensures that we will have good birding opportunities.

Hotel in the east Slovakia
is found in the middle of a small town amidst plains not far from Ukraine and Hungary. Many different habitats are found nearby incl. oxbows with heronries.



*Tengmalm's Owl
several pairs occupy nest boxes*



*Saker
timid and rare*



juvenile

White-tailed and Imperial Eagle

Images were kindly provided by:
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www.ecotours.hu
ecotours@t-online.hu
+36-30-6459318 or +36-20-8014742 (Apr - Oct)
+52 1 998 126 3073 (Nov - Apr)
skype: gabornewmex



Please don't hesitate to ask for a detailed itinerary or visit our web site



group of birders in the Carpathians